INDIA UNDER SIEGE : A WAKE UP CALL

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INTRODUCTION

India became independent in the year 1947. Our independence was vitiated by partition. Pakistan was created. Creation of Pakistan was neither an accident nor a simple, mutually agreed division. Pakistan was founded on religious basis. Since the idea of Pakistan was mooted, parties fighting for freedom, except Muslim League, had opposed it. Mahatma Gandhi himself was so against the division of the country on religious grounds that he said, it can be done only on my dead body. Since its creation, Pakistan has waged covert or overt war on our country.

It is more than sixty years now. Citizens of any country expect that their government would protect them. The situation in India is so precarious that we are only safe between two terrorist attacks. Every such attack is blamed on Pakistan ; its conception, planning and execution is controlled and directed by ISI. Attacks with such consistency and on such scale could not have been carried out without the support of local elements. Mumbai witnessed a massive attack in the year 1993. Now it is 2009 and yet the, master minds absconding and those who are arrested have not been brought to book and adequately punished. Such continues to be the case with all other incidents. Even those who assisted the attack on our parliament and convicted by our Supreme Court are not punished yet. After every terror attack our political leaders and government exhort people to be calm, exercise self control and maintain communal harmony, but to no avail.

60 years of independence are not without “ achievements”! We have the highest number of criminals in our law making bodies-assemblies and parliament now. Corruption is so rampant that no word in the dictionary will be adequate to describe and condemn it. In our public life, socio-cultural space, we are being led by people who take pride in breaking age-old principles of morality and decency. Needless to say that our film industry, whose heroes and heroines are role models for our youth, is at the forefront of this ignoble endeavor! A glaring example of this is Sanjay Dutt, a convict in the Mumbai Serial Blasts of 1993 and who in his life has committed every sin that Gandhiji had condemned. It is a great irony that he preaches and we listed to Gandhian principles from him. Now, he has been offered candidature for a seat in Parliament. Law will take its own course! But the unholy hest with which we are bestowing legitimacy and respectability on convicts and criminals is a disgrace to any civilized society. And this

is not an isolated example. Can a country survive with such putrid public life?

Pakistan may be our enemy, but it is not to be held responsible for such deterioration of our society. If somebody is to be held responsible, it is our political leaders since 1947. It is they who have legitimized criminalization of politics for electoral gains. All the ink spilled to describe this state of affairs will be futile.

Vidya Prasarak Mandal, an educational institution, offering traditional courses to the students has started about a year back a Defense and Strategic Study Department. A retired Intelligence Officer, NT Ravindran, heads this department. This book is the product of his ceaseless efforts and commitment to the nation.

If the contents of this book do not disturb you, it will be a tragedy. That also will confirm that our prime enemy is not Pakistan but our inaction and failure to respond to the attacks on our decency, dignity and culture. The only civilized response we can muster is through our democratic apparatus. Enlightened citizens alone can make responsible democracy possible. It is no more a choice of this or that political party now. If we choose to elect parties that give tickets to criminals and corrupt individuals, soon we may lose the very spirit of democracy. This is a country of 100 crores people and in every party dynastic rule prevails.

This book should at least inspire you to introspect and act to preserve and respect honest and selfless individuals and institutions in the country. It will also caution you against all those voluntary organizations which, under the pretext of human rights, environment, minority rights etc., are trying to oppose every developmental activity and weaken our nation from within. This book has unmasked all such individuals and institutions who are otherwise enjoying respectability and government patronage.

I am sure the book will serve its purpose i.e. to awaken you from slumber of inaction.

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Chapter-I

Security Scenario in India

The security scenario in the country has never been so bad and alarming as it is now. The terror attacks which were earlier confined to Kashmir and North East have now spread to all over the country. The serial bomb blasts are taking place at different places in the country at regular intervals. The situation in Kashmir has been allowed to deteriorate to such an extent that the separatists in Kashmir valley have started organising huge anti-India rallies wielding Pakistani flags, denouncing India and seeking independence. The influx of Bangladeshis into the country continues unabated pausing a very grave threat to the security interests of the country. The naxalites are making steady inroads into more and more areas in the country and they have started attacking the security forces and looting arms and ammunition from the police stations. Some pseudo-secularists and the so-called leftist intellectuals in the country feel nothing wrong in openly supporting these anti-national movements. A substantial section of the press and electronic media also appear to be sympathising with such anti-national movements. At a time when the unity is the need of the hour, the UPA government appears to be promoting disunity among various sections of people with its quota politics and other such flawed policies. The situation in the country is thus hopelessly grim and grave. Some of the major challenges threatening the unity and integrity of the country which need to be tackled on top priority are discussed here.

Fake Currency as a Tool of Economic Terrorism

India is presently reeling under the impact of continued terror attacks mainly in the form of serial bomb blasts orchestrated by various ISI-sponsored Muslim terror groups including the home-grown terror outfits SIMI and Indian Mujahideen. What has become equally worrisome development is the economic terrorism being unleashed on India by Pakistan by way of pumping into the country huge quantities of fake Indian currency printed in government presses in Pakistan. Though the Indian authorities have all along been aware of the ISI's plan to weaken India's economy by flooding the country with fake Indian currency, the magnitude and level of sophistication of this operation has shocked the security agencies in India. The fake currency racket in India is an age-old problem. But earlier only some criminal gangs and individuals within the country were involved in this racket and its impact on the country's economy was very marginal. But Pakistan's direct involvement in this racket has given a new twist and fillip to this menace which has now grown to the extent of assuming the gravest ever threat to the country's economic stability. Fake currency amounting to Rs.1,69000 crore was in circulation in India as per a statement issued by the CBI in 2000. Since then there has been an unprecedented increase in the inflow of fake Indian currency into the country as indicated by the reports of regular seizure of huge quantities of fake currency from different locations in the country. There is no official data available to show the exact amount of total fake currency presently in circulation in India, but it must be a mind-boggling figure. The menace of fake currency has become such a gigantic problem that the people have now started getting fake currency from the ATMs of nationalised and other banks. Obviously this menace, if remained unchecked, could put our entire economy on the verge of collapse. But unfortunately despite the gravity of the problem, the government does not seem to have taken the matter with the seriousness it deserves, as there has been very little effort so far to break the network of the culprits involved in this racket which is ruining our economy.

The Pakistani cities of Quetta, Karachi and Peshawar have emerged as major centres for printing fake Indian currency as part of the long-standing Pakistani agenda aimed at destabilising the Indian

economy. It has been reported that the CBI, in a note sent to the Finance ministry in September,2006, had expressed its concern over the possibility of ISI-backed counterfeiters having managed to breach the Indian currency procedures and gained access to the same source of currency printing papers that are being used for printing genuine currency notes in India. Both India and Pakistan have been meeting most of their currency paper requirements by importing the same from some London-based companies. The security agencies in India are reported to have subsequently found that Pakistan has been importing huge quantities of currency standard printing paper from UK, far in excess of its normal requirement, for diverting part of the same to print fake Indian currency. This explains the high quality of the paper used for printing the fake Indian currency by the Pakistan-based counterfeiters.

The Karachi-based underworld don Dawood Ibrahim is the main kingpin behind the ISI-sponsored fake currency racket in India. The racket is being conducted in a big way now by the ISI using the wide network of Dawood Ibrahim's agents in India and in neighboring countries like Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka in close association with different terror groups. The fake Indian currency smuggled into the country is distributed in different parts of the country through local agents. The fake notes are then exchanged by the local sub-agents with genuine notes at a discount of up to 30%. The genuine currency thus earned is used by the ISI to finance its terror network in the country. It is also reported that the ISI has been using the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flights to transport fake currency to its conduits in Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

The Indian security agencies have also reportedly learnt that fake Indian currency of high quality is printed at a press located on Pakistan-Afghanistan border which is owned by Dawood Ibrahim and operated under the supervision of the ISI. Besides the excellent quality of the paper, the notes printed here are also reportedly remarkable for its sophisticated security features like the security thread, use of optically variable ink, specialised printing and machine readable features. These notes are sent to Dubai for further despatch to different destinations in India through couriers and returning expatriates. The operations in

Dubai were earlier looked after by Aftab Batki, a close associate of Dawood and after his recent shifting to Bangkok, his brother-in-law Tahir Takia has reportedly taken charge of the Dubai operations.

The Pakistan embassy in Kathmandu is also found to be deeply involved in fake currency racket. One Asim Saboor, an employee working in the visa section of the Pakistan embassy in Nepal, was arrested by the Nepalese police in January,2000 for trying to sell fake Indian currency of Rs.500 denomination to an under-cover Nepali police officer. He was subsequently declared persona non grata by the government of Nepal and was expelled from Nepal on January 5, 2000. He had reportedly admitted to the Nepali authorities that Mohammad Arshad Cheema, the First secretary (Consular Section) in the Pakistan embassy in Nepal was the chief of the fake Indian currency racket in Nepal. He is the same officer who is alleged to have passed on a bag to the five hijackers of the Indian Airlines flight 814, minutes before they boarded the flight at Kathmandu airport on December 24, 1999.

There are strong grounds to suspect that one of the factors responsible for the unprecedented real estate boom in India since last 3/4 years might be the sudden increase in the inflow of fake currency into the country following the resumption of bus and train services to Pakistan. Huge quantities of fake currency have been seized by the police and Customs authorities from the bus and train passengers coming from Pakistan on several occasions in the past. Some of the recent incidents of seizure of fake currency from different parts of India as quoted below indicates the gravity of this problem.

In the first week of September,2008, a woman passenger coming from Pakistan was taken under custody by the Customs authorities at the Attari railway station after she was found to be carrying fake currency of the face value of Rs.10 lakh stuffed in the soles of her footwear. The woman who was later identified as Pakeeza, hailing from Uttar Pradesh, had arrived at Attari railway station by Samjhauta express. We can only speculate as to how many such cases have gone undetected in the past.

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) officials seized fake Indian currency amounting to Rs.75 lakh from a Gulf passenger

identified as Mohammad Anshad who arrived at Karipur airport in Kerala on August 16, 2008. Abdul Kareem, an employee of the Customs Department was also found involved in the racket. The accused had stated that the fake currency notes were printed in Pakistan.

A Reserve Bank of India team had found an estimated Rs.3 crore of counterfeit notes in the currency chest of SBI's Dumariaganj branch in UP during a checking conducted in the first week of August, 2008. The racket was busted with the arrest of one Abid of Sidharth Nagar in UP after Rs.5 lakh worth fake Indian currency notes were recovered from him. He had named Sudhakar Tripathi, a cashier of SBI's Dumariaganj branch, as his associate. Abid was reportedly in touch with his contacts in Nepal and Hong Kong.

On 20th.June,2008, the Hyderabad police in a joint operation with the West Bengal police arrested two persons and seized fake currency worth over Rs.36 lakh from them. The arrested persons were identified as Mohammad Shoukat Ali of Maida district in West Bengal and K.V.Satyanarayana Reddy of East Godavary district in Andhra Pradesh. Their interrogation had revealed that they were getting the fake currency from one Natfal Shaikh of Bangladesh who was in touch with some Islamic terrorist groups and ISI agents. They had also reportedly revealed that the fake notes were printed in the government printing press in Karachi.

On March 11,2008 two Bangladeshi nationals were shot dead by the police in an encounter at Kashimira in Thane district (Maharashtra). The police seized fake currency worth Rs.2 lakh, 2 kg.of RDX, one pistol and a revolver from them. All the fake notes were of Rs.1000 denomination.

The Officials of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) had seized fake Indian currency of Rs.1000 and Rs.500 denomination totalling Rs.20 lakh from an Indian passenger identified as Panjath Moideen Sahul Hameed who had arrived at Sahar airport in Mumbai from Dubai on 15-11-2007.

On 26th. August,2007, the Hyderabad police seized fake currency amounting to Rs.2.36 crore and arrested four persons including Alkaz

Khamis Obaid Khamis Ali, a UAE national, involved in the racket. All the fake notes were in the denomination of Rs.1000 and Rs.500. Their interrogation had revealed that the seized fake currency was shipped into the country from Pakistan's port city of Karachi indicating the fact that the sea route is also used for sending fake currency into India. They also admitted that the others in their gang included three Pakistani nationals.

On 25th.June,2007 the Special Cell of Delhi police had arrested three persons identified as Mohammad Wasim, Mohammad Muslim and Mohammad Nayeem and had seized fake Indian currency worth Rs.33 lakh from them. Their interrogation revealed that the seized fake currency notes were printed in Pakistan and their network is run by one Iqbal Kana, an ISI agent. Iqbal Kana is an Indian national and a notorious criminal hailing from Mussafar Nagar in Uttar Pradesh. He is presently based in Lahore and on his instructions fake Indian currency notes are sent to India via Dubai, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Malaysia and also directly from Pakistan. The fake currency consignment of Rs.33 lakh was delivered to Mohammad Wasim by two women, Rashida and Mehrunisa, on June 7, 2007. Wasim further admitted that he was introduced to Iqbal Kana by his friend Shafiq who is now based in Kathmandu.

The extent of this menace can be gauged from the fact that Nepal has banned the Indian currency of Rs.1000 and Rs.500 denomination to tackle the problem of fake currency. It is also reported that in areas bordering Nepal, Myanmar and Bangladesh there are agents selling fake Indian currency in exchange of genuine Indian currency at a negotiated price.

It is pertinent to note in this regard the allegations repeatedly raised by reputed journalist Rajinder Puri since 1995 over the union government's decision to purchase inferior and unreliable printing machines for printing currency notes in the country replacing the machines of a tried and tested firm. On getting this information from his bureaucrat friends, he had filed a PIL against the RBI in the Mumbai High Court to prevent the use of new machines for printing the currency notes. He had pointed out that the proven record of the new machines, Komori of Japan, clearly indicated that it could endanger the national

security as fake notes not distinguishable from the genuine notes could easily be manufactured by terrorists and other anti-national elements if Komori machines are used. According to Rajinder Puri, the RBI had accepted every single argument put forward by the petitioner. It conceded that Komori machines presented "a risk factor" and "teething troubles".It admitted that the earlier machines, Giori of Switzerland which printed currency for ninety percent of the nations in the world, are markedly superior. It confirmed that the use of Komori machines in Russia had ended in disaster and the machines had to be abandoned. Despite these admissions on record, the court rejected the petition mainly on the ground that the monopoly of Giori needed to be ended. This is a very serious matter as it hints about the possibility of an internal sabotage by some insiders in the government aimed at ruining the country's economy.

India is now flooded with fake Indian currency notes of Rs.1000 and Rs.500 denomination printed in government presses in Pakistan, bleeding the country's financial system. The fake Indian currency consignments are sent to India sometimes directly from Pakistan by the sea route, but mostly via Dubai, Thailand, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and the porous Indo-Pak and Indo- Bangladesh borders. The Samchota Express and Indo-Pak bus services are also used for pumping fake Indian currency into India. Financing terrorism in India and destroying Indian economy are the twin objectives of this Pakistani operation. Printing and circulating the currency of another country is an act of war and as such it requires an appropriate and befitting response from India. But instead of taking stringent measures to deal with this grave provocation from the rouge regime in Pakistan, the spineless and shameless government prefers to go ahead with its peace talks with Pakistan.

Continued inflow of Bangladeshi migrants to Assam

The continued influx of Bangladeshi migrants into Assam has changed the demographic profile of Assam. In 6 out of 23 districts in Assam, the Muslims have now become the majority community because of the continued inflow of Bangladeshis. If this trends continues, the Hindus in the State will very soon be reduced to a minority community. The United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA)

is the major terrorist and insurgency outfit in Assam. The ULFA was founded mainly on the basis of strong anti-foreigners sentiments among the local people directed against the immigrants from Bangladesh. But over the years it has abandoned its ideology to link up with the ISI of Pakistan and the Bangladeshi terrorist group Harkat Ul Jihad-al-Islami (HUJI) for getting their support. As a result, instead of driving out the Bangladeshi immigrants, the ULFA has now started attacking and killing the Hindi-speaking people in the state as part of its ethnic cleansing drive. A number of Hindi speaking people, mainly daily-wagers hailing from Bihar, including the women and children have been butchered by the ULFA militants in the recent past. The ULFA has no problem with the Bangladeshi influx into Assam as it is now supported and financed by Pakistan's ISI and the Bangladeshi terrorist outfit HUJI.

Lt.Gen. (Rtd) S. K. Sinha, former Governor of Assam and Kashmir had written a detailed letter to the President of India on November,8th.1998 while he was serving as the governor of Assam pointing out the grave situation developing in the state as a result of the continued influx of Bangladeshi migrants into Assam. He had warned that if immediate steps were not taken to identify and deport all such illegal immigrants, there is every possibility of India losing control of not only Assam but the entire North-Eastern region. Because, the Assam and other north-eastern states are connected with the rest of India by a narrow stretch of land-link called the chicken neck. If the militants in Assam succeed in blocking this strategic stretch of land, India will lose its land connectivity with Assam and the entire north-eastern region. T. V. Rajeshwar, a former chief of Intelligence Bureau and presently the governor of Uttar Pradesh had also reportedly apprised the Union government about the growing threat to the territorial integrity of the country by the continued influx of Bangladeshi migrants into the country and stressing the need for immediate remedial steps to undo the damage. He had also written a series of articles in the English news daily 'Hindustan Times' in early 1996 about the threat posed by the steady inflow of illegal immigrants from Bangladesh to Assam, West Bengal and other regions in the country. Ajit Doval, another former chief of Intelligence Bureau, had also recently disclosed through a write up in The Times of India that on an average 6000 to

7000 Bangladeshi nationals are illegally entering Assam every day and the grave consequences it could have on the unity and integrity of the country, if no action was taken to check this trend and push back all such illegal immigrants. The Supreme Court of India while invalidating the IMDT Act in 2005 had also expressed similar fears and had directed the Govt of India to take immediate steps to identify and deport all Bangladeshi immigrants from Assam and other regions in the country.

However, the Government of India under one pretext or other has been avoiding taking any positive action in this regard. In fact many top Congress leaders appear to have a soft corner for not only Bangladeshi migrants but also for naxalites and other militant and anti-national groups in the country. Recently following strong suspicion about the involvement of HUJI militants in the recent serial bomb blasts in Jaipur, the police had rounded up many Bangladeshi migrants in Rajasthan. Commenting on this development, Rajasthan Governor and former Foreign Secretary S.K.Singh had described the Bangladeshi migrants issue as a human rights problem and indirectly criticised the BJP government's action of arresting illegal Bangladeshi migrants in Rajasthan as ideologically motivated. Taking a sympathetic view on the issue, S.K.Singh,who was talking to the media people on 20-5-2008, had also recalled how in 1990 the former prime minister V.P.Singh was actually helping the Bangladeshi migrants in India in getting voter's identity card and Indian citizenship,etc. On the same day while talking to the media men in Delhi, Chief Minister Sheila Dixit had also expressed similar sentiments on the issue by stating that the migration of Bangladeshis into India through our porous borders was not a new phenomenon and pointing out that it has been our tradition to welcome all those who arrive in our country. In fact the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act (IMDT) passed by the Parliament on December 12, 1983 was introduced by the congress-I government at the Centre only to protect the interests of Bangladeshi migrants in India. This Act is applicable only in the state of Assam. In all other states, the detection of foreigners is done under the Foreigners Act, 1946. Under the IMDT Act, the onus of proving one's nationality or otherwise lies on the complainant where as under the Foreigners Act, the onus is on the accused. This makes it impractical

and impossible for the concerned authorities to proceed against the illegal migrants in Assam. In July, 2005, the Supreme Court of India quite naturally struck down the IMDT Act describing it as "unconstitutional" and the biggest hurdle in deportation of illegal Bangladeshi migrants from India. The Supreme Court also warned that large-scale infiltration from Bangladesh constituted an "external aggression" against Assam. However despite such a strong verdict from the Supreme Court, the UPA government is not prepared to take any action to detect and deport the Bangladeshi migrants from India or to check the continued inflow of Bangladeshis into India.

According to Wing Commander (Rtd) N.K.Pande, the military intelligence in late 1990s had unearthed an ISI plot of pushing Bangladeshi Muslims into India for swelling their numbers in the border districts of Assam and West Bengal. The aim of this operation was obviously to tilt the demographic balance in the area heavily in their favour so as to build up a conducive ground in the long run to press for the creation of a third Islamic state in the region. The ISI already seems to have succeeded in changing the demographic complexion of the population in the border districts of Assam and West Bengal. The consequences of this dangerous development could be seen very soon, if remedial measures are not taken even at this late stage.

The growing population of Bangladeshi migrants in Assam has already started showing an adverse impact on the security situation in Assam. Seven Muslim migrants were killed in two separate incidents of police firing in Goalpara district of Assam on Jan.2, 2008 when the unruly mobs protesting against the exclusion of certain areas in the district from the ongoing panchayat elections turned violent. There was fresh violence in Krishnai in Goalpara district on May 25, 2008 when a Muslim mob tried to attack the Krishnai police station after six members of their community were picked up by the police on charges of burning down two houses of indigenous Rabha tribal community. In the police firing that followed, one Muslim migrant was killed. The latest in the series of such incidents is the communal violence that erupted in Udalgiri district in Assam between the local Bodo tribals and migrant Muslims. The violence was reportedly triggered by the assault on a Bodo youth by the Muslim settlers of Mohanpur village in

Udalgiri distrit on 2nd.Otobar, 2008 for allegedly trying to steal a goat and the retaliatory attack by the Bodo villagers. The violence soon spread to neighboring districts of Darrang and Baska as well. About 50 people were reportedly killed in the violence and more than one lakh people were rendered homeless. Hoisting of Pakistani flags at Sonaripada and Bakhalpara in Udalgiri district on 4th.Octobar had further aggravated the tension in the area. Goalpara is one of the six Muslim majority districts in Assam located close to the Bangladesh border. Many Muslim migrants with ISI links have been arrested from this area in the past. Such confrontations between Bangladeshi migrants and security forces or local villagers on various issues are likely to become more frequent in Goalpara and other districts of Assam in future which will gradually lead to secessionist activities and we will soon have a Kashmir-type situation in Assam.

On July 15, 2004, Sriprakash Jaiswal, Minister of State for Home Affairs in the UPA Government, had stated in the Rajya Sabha that there were 1,20,53,950 Bangladeshi migrants illegally staying in India as on 31 December,2001. However a week later he had to withdraw this statement because of objection from his own party members who feared that it will displease the Muslim community in India. Can we have such compromise on national security matters just to protect the vote-bank of the ruling party? On May 6th.1997, former Union Home Minister and senior CPI leader Indrajit Gupta had also announced in the Lok Sabha that there were about 1.1 crore Bangladeshi nationals illegally staying in India. Going by these figures, presently there must be around 2 crore illegal Bangladeshi immigrants in India. But let us assume that there are only five million Bangladeshi migrants in India. Out of this five million Bangladeshis, there could be at least ten thousand sympathisers of Islamic militancy and one thousand militant elements. Because, the Islamic fundamentalism and militancy has already taken deep roots in Bangladesh. Moreover the ISI has been recruiting Bangladeshis in large numbers as its agents since last few years and pushing them into India for circulating fake currency and organising terrorist activities in India. A number of Bangladeshis have been arrested in the recent past in connection with such activities in India. Terrorist outfits like the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA), the Harkat-ul-Jihad-al-Islami (HUJI) and the Lashkar-e-Toiba

(LeT) have all been operating freely from Bangladeshi soil. In the serial bomb blasts that rocked Assam on 30th.Octobar,2008 about 80 people were reportedly killed and more than 300 people were injured. This was by far the biggest ever terrorist incident in the North-East. The police investigation is still in progress and both the HUJI and ULFA are suspected to have played a role in engineering these blasts. It is a pointer to the gravity of the situation. We have no idea as to how many terror modules have already been formed by the Bangladeshi militants in India. These terror modules lying in wait could be activated at will by the ISI to spread terror in India. It is a frightening situation.

Indo-Pak Peace Talks on Kashmir

Pakistan has been sending Jihadi elements into Kashmir since late 1980s to encourage and organise terrorist activities in the state. The PAK-ISI has lately extended such activities to other parts of India also with the help of local Muslim militant outfits like SIMI and Indian Mujahideen and there had been a series of bomb blasts in cities like Delhi, Varanasi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Jaipur,and Ahmedabad in the recent past. It has also helped in shaping up SIMI and Indian Mujahideen as dreaded terror outfits in India. In the serial train blasts in Mumbai about 190 innocent people were killed and about 900 people were injured. The Prime Minister himself had admitted that the serial train blasts in Mumbai were engineered by people from across the border, meaning Pakistan. But despite the gravity of this incident, he did not think it necessary to call of the peace talks with Pakistan. Pakistan had condemned the serial train blasts in Mumbai more as a ritual. But the point to be noted is that the Pakistan foreign minister had also given an indirect warning to India by commenting that an early settlement of the Kashmir issue was the only way to curb such terrorist incidents in India. Just three months after the Mumbai train blasts,Gen. Musharraf had come up with a 4-point formula to resolve the Kashmir stalemate. His peace formula envisages total withdrawal of Indian troops from Kashmir, grant of self-rule and autonomy to the people of Kashmir, allowing people of both parts of Kashmir to travel across the border without Passport and visa and joint supervision of Kashmir by both Pakistan and India. If this atrocious proposal is accepted, Kashmir will cease to be a part of India and we will be

presenting Kashmir on a platter to Pakistan. As such, it should have been outrightly rejected by the Government of India. But the Prime Minister's reaction was that any new proposal to resolve the Kashmir dispute was welcome and he agreed to consider the said peace formula during the ongoing peace talks with Pakistan. Had it not be for the stiff resistance put up by the Army, the government may have accepted Gen. Musharraf's peace formula in toto. Fortunately the peace talks with Pakistan were temporarily stalled for sometime because of some internal developments in Pakistan like the assassination of Benazir Bhutto, general elections,etc. But after a gap of one year, despite Pakistan's continued involvement in terrorist activities in the country and frequent cease-fire violations in Kashmir, the spineless and shameless UPA government resumed the peace talks with Pakistan. These peace talks are being held under the American pressure. Pakistan had been a staunch ally of the US for all these years and the US can never be trusted as an impartial umpire as far as the Kashmir dispute is concerned. On the other hand, the US State Department had always been very hostile towards India, a fact confirmed by the events described in the book 'The Kaoboys of R&AW' by B.Raman, a retired Additional secretary of R&AW, India's external intelligence wing. Any US-imposed solution to settle the Kashmir dispute which compromises our security interests in Kashmir has to be resisted by all nationalist forces in the country. In fact India should not have succumbed to the US pressures to hold peace talks with Pakistan. Consider these facts and decide for yourself whether we should have peace talks with Pakistan.

- Pakistan has so far not dismantled its terror infrastructure in its territory directed against India. According to the latest assessment by Indian intelligence agencies as revealed by General Deepak Kumar, the chief of Indian army, there are about forty terrorist training camps still operating with full impunity in Pakistan with 18 of them located in POK.

- Both Afghanistan and Indian authorities have confirmed the involvement of Pakistan's ISI in the July-7 car-bomb attack on the Indian embassy in Kabul in which four Indians including an IFS officer and a brigadier were killed. It was further

corroborated by the US intelligence agencies.

- Leaders of all major Kashmiri terrorist groups like Laskar-e-toiba, Jaish-e- Mohammad and Hisbul Mujahideen are still allowed to operate from Pakistan.

- The ISI-sponsored terror attacks, bomb blasts and infiltration still continue to take place in India. Serial bomb blasts orchestrated by some local terror groups are taking place in different parts of the country at regular intervals, with the active support of ISI.

- All the five hijackers who hijacked an Indian airlines flight to Kandhahar in December, 1999 are given safe asylum in Pakistan.

- All the main accused in the 1993 serial bomb blasts and 2006 serial train blasts in Mumbai are evading arrest by taking shelter in Pakistan.

- Dawood Ibrahim and his henchmen who are wanted in India in connection with various terror acts in India including the 1993 serial bomb blasts in Mumbai are given safe asylum in Pakistan. Karimulla Khan, an accused in the 1993 serial bomb blasts in Mumbai and a close aide of Dawood Ibrahim who was arrested recently by Mumbai police from his residence in Nallasopara (Maharashtra) had admitted that he was living with gangster Dawood Ibrahim at his Karachi residence till 2006 and that Dawood Ibrahim, his brothers Anees and Noora and aides like Chotta Shakeel and Tigor Memon are all living in Karachi.

- India is flooded with fake Indian currency notes printed in government press in Pakistan. Printing and circulating the currency of another country is an act of war.

- Pakistan did not support India's candidate Shashi Tharoor in the contest for the post of UN Secretary General.

- Pakistan is opposed to India's bid for securing a permanent membership in UN Security Council.

- Pakistan is not prepared to give the most favoured nation status to India in trade, though such a status has already been granted to China.

Despite the above-mentioned facts, India continues to hold peace talks with Pakistan only because of the pressures from US State Department and the powerful pro-American lobby in India. It is now certain that there is an American conspiracy to help Pakistan to annex Jammu & Kashmir in a surreptitious manner without a war. As per this conspiracy, the goal of merger of Jammu & Kashmir with POK will be achieved through a carefully calculated strategy of forcing India to build up friendly relations with Pakistan through a peace dialogue followed by resumption of cross-border train and bus services, starting cross-border trade and ultimately making the borders irrelevant. Despite Pakistan's continued involvement in engineering terror strikes in India, we are going ahead with opening more and more bus and trade routes to Pakistan. Two cross-border trade links with POK were established on October 21, 2008 by opening up a trade route linking Srinagar in Kashmir valley with Muzaffarabad in POK and another trade route connecting Poonch in Jammu area with Rawalkot in POK. The day October 21 has a special significance as it was on this day in 1947 that Pakistan sent its troops and mercenaries to take over J&K by force. By selecting this day for opening the trade route, the Indian authorities probably thought that it is a day worth celebrating!

Cost of India's Soft Approach to Pakistan

The peace talks with Pakistan and the subsequent opening up of the borders with resumption of train and bus services between the two countries has done irreparable damage to India's security interests. It has now become easier for pro-Pakistani militant elements in India to go to Pakistan for terror training and for Pakistan to induct more terror agents into India. Pakistan's cherished agenda of destabilising the Indian economy also got a fresh boost with the resumption of train and bus services between the two countries as huge quantities of fake

Indian currency notes are now routinely pushed into India through commuters coming from Pakistan as indicated by regular reports about the seizure of fake Indian currency from these passengers. In the name of the need for promoting better understanding between the people of the two countries, the separatists in Kashmir valley were allowed to travel frequently to Pakistan to meet not only Pakistani political leaders but also Pakistan-based Kashmiri terrorist leaders to discuss about the Kashmir situation and chalk out their strategy for the liberation of J&K. A systematic and massive campaign was also launched in Kashmir valley by the separatist elements with the backing of the pro-American human rights groups and media to dub the Indian army personnel deployed in J&K as rapists, abductors and murderers of innocent people through fake encounters and demanding the total pull out of the army from the state. Although the government of India rejected the demand for total pull out of the army from J&K, it did agree for a troop reduction and restraining the army from internal security duties. Taking full advantage of this immobilisation of the army, the separatists in the valley stepped up its anti-India campaign which reached its peak after the eruption of riots over the Amarnath Yatra controversy. By not taking stringent measures to curb the open anti-India campaign of the separatist elements, the authorities allowed the situation to deteriorate to such an extent that holding huge anti-India rallies, burning of Indian national flags and hoisting Pakistani flags have now become a routine event in the Kashmir valley. The latest flare-up in the Kashmir valley has also emboldened the pseudo-secularists and human rights activists in the country like Arundhati Roy to come out openly in support of the demand of Kashmiri separatists for azadi from India.

Despite the prevailing dismal scenario in Kashmir valley, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh during his recent visit to Kashmir has again asserted that though he cannot change the borders, he can make it irrelevant. What does he mean by such a statement? If the borders are made irrelevant, there will be only one unified Kashmir which will be fully under the control of Pakistan. Is that what he wants? Does he have the mandate of the people for his desired goal? If that is our new stance, why did we sacrifice the lives of thousands of soldiers to defend Kashmir all these years? Why are our politicians, including the so-called nationalist leaders, not raising these questions?

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh is probably not satisfied with the reign of terror already being unleashed on India due to the illogical and ill-advised policy of the UPA government in initiating peace talks with an incorrigible neighbor. His proposal to make borders irrelevant is simply atrocious. It is because of such flawed policies that the terror attacks have now spread to all parts of the country. The people all over the country are now gripped with a growing sense of insecurity and fear complex because of the increasing regularity of the serial bomb blasts. The SIMI and Indian Mujahideen have now become dreaded terror outfits only because of the assistance, guidance and training that the activists of the two outfits are getting from their mentors in Pakistan, as has been revealed by the confessions made by some of the terror suspects arrested by the police in the recent past. Hence the UPA government should be held responsible for the prevailing terror climate in the country and the increasing incidents of terror strikes and serial bomb blasts in which hundreds of innocent people are getting killed.

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Chapter - II

Action Group Movement of Networking NGOs

It is now a globally accepted fact that India has the potential to emerge as an economic superpower in the not too distant future. Indian economy is the second fastest growing economy in the world. India's GDP has been consistently registering an impressive growth rate of 8 to 9% since last 4 years. We have built up a healthy foreign exchange reserve of about 270 billion dollars. Some of the prestigious multi-national companies and financial institutions in the world are now headed by Indian CEOs. Many Indian companies have started making impressive acquisitions and take-overs of foreign companies. Four out of top ten billionaires in the Forbe's Fortune-500 list are Indians. The present financial crisis in the US and its global repercussions did have some impact on Indian economy as well, but it is quite within manageable limit. Thus the overall picture of the Indian economy appears to be quite rosy at present. US economist Clyde V. Prestowitz, Founder and President of the Economic Strategic Institute and a former financial consultant to Regan Administration believes that the 21st. Century belongs to India and China. He further predicts that the Indian economy will overtake that of USA by or before 2045. Clyde Prestowitz may have overestimated India's pace of progress. But the moot question is whether India will ever be allowed to become an economic superpower at all. Because it will be foolhardy to believe that the imperialist powers which presently rule over the world with their economic and military might would easily give up their present

exalted positions of power. These countries which control the powerful world bodies like the United Nations, IMF,World Bank and WTO are hell-bent on perpetuating their world domination for ever and they are certain to frustrate any superpower ambitions of countries like India. If Indian economy can overtake the US economy in 40 or 50 years, India could also emerge as a military superpower at a later stage. This simply will not be acceptable to the present imperialist world leadership led by the USA. This dangerous mind-set of the US, the reigning superpower, is responsible for the creation of all the socio-economic and security problems in India.

India has certainly made commendable economic progress since the last few years and the Indian industry has now acquired a new status in the world of business. India's progress and contribution in the field of information technology is particularly notable. However on a closer scrutiny of the overall economic situation in the country, one can see that behind this glittering facade of a healthy and fast-growing economy, there are some very serious problems hampering the country's economic progress. These problems and challenges are created by some dark forces within the country who are bent upon stalling the country's march towards prosperity. For instance, a quarterly report put out by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, which tracked the progress of various big developmental projects taken up by the Centre for the period up to December, 2006 showed that 297 out of 866 mega development projects in the country are running badly behind schedule causing a cost escalation of Rs.24000 crores. The projects are delayed by up to 16 years in some cases. In most cases the delay is caused by legal hurdles or opposition by local villagers engineered by an anti-development lobby.

In private sector, the situation is even worse. Practically all major developmental projects in the country like steel, cement and power plants, big dams and ports and coal, bauxite and uranium mining projects are facing hurdles and delays caused by this anti-development lobby.

Orissa

Orissa is one of the worst-affected states by the antics of the anti-development lobby. Orissa with a population of 36.7 million people is one of the poorest states in India. Per capita income in the state is Rs.9162/-, where as the national average is Rs.16047/-. About 47.1% of people in the state fall under the category of people living below the poverty line as against the national average of 26.1%. Orissa has 24% of India's national reserves of coal, 33.9% of iron ore and 49.7% of bauxite. Blessed with such mineral wealth, there is no reason for this state to remain at the bottom of the country's development ladder. However there is a new ray of hope now as under the dynamic leadership of a forward-looking chief minister, rapid industrialisation is taking place in Orissa since last five years. The state government has signed MOUs with a number of big industrial firms like Tatas, Birlas, Reliance, Jindals, L&T, POSCO of South Korea, etc. involving a total investment of more than Rs.4 lakh crores. During the period from 1991 to 1994, only .9% of Indian investment went to Orissa where as in 2006 this investment figure jumped up to 11%. Thus Orissa today is really poised to become an economic power house of the country. But there is a big hitch. The anti-development lobby led by some powerful NGO activists is hell-bent on blocking Orissa's march to prosperity. Every project in the state is faced with resistance by local villagers as a result of misleading propaganda and clever manipulation by this lobby. The lobby leaders have even managed to win over the support of some of the local political parties for their anti-development campaign. This activist lobby is also supported by some foreign NGOs and funding agencies. The pattern and ground for their protest is similar everywhere. The grievances of the villagers include possible displacement of people, destruction of environment, livelihood, rare species of plants and animals and nesting habitat of Olive Ridley turtle and damage to the coast line. The villagers in some of the project-sites do not even allow the project officials and workers to visit the work-site. These villagers were also found well-trained in adopting violent means, if necessary, to stall the work. In case of confrontation and police firing resulting in loss of life etc. it is a victory for the lobbyists as the work will be delayed indefinitely and they can also exploit such incidents for propaganda purpose. The situation is really very serious as many big projects in Orissa are faced with indefinite delay and the

resultant cost escalation as a result of the machinations of this anti-national lobby. Some of the major development projects affected by the antics of the anti-development lobby in Orissa are as under.

POSCO Steel Plant Project

The South Korean steel major POSCO is setting up a mega steel plant with 12 million tonne per year capacity at Jagatsinghpur in Orissa. The MOU for the project was signed on 22d. June 2005. This project with an investment of Rs.52000 crore, will be the biggest foreign direct investment in India. Other linked components of the project include a captive mine, railway line, a captive port and an integrated township. The project is expected to give direct employment to 13000 people and indirect employment to about 35000 people. The first phase of the project is to be completed by 2010. Out of the 4004 acres of land acquired for the project only 438 acres belong to the local land owners. The company has already undertaken all necessary steps for the rehabilitation of the project-affected people. However some local leaders influenced by some outside NGOs are opposing this mega project raising some silly objections. They claim that the project will adversely affect the livelihood of local villagers like the betel leaf and cashew nut cultivation and pisciculture. They further allege that the proposed port at Jatadhari would affect the fishing community in the area, cause damage to the coastline and destroy the nesting habitat of endangered Olive Ridley turtle. These activists have also floated an organisation called POSCO Pratirodh Sangram Samiti under the leadership of one Abhay Sahu to oppose the steel project. This Samiti is supported and guided by the National Alliance of People's Movements (NAPM) led by social activists Ms.Medha Patkar and B.D.Sharma. A section of the villagers under the banner of the Sangram Samiti has been conducting protest programmes like dharna,demonstration, etc. against the project at regular intervals since the day the deal was signed on 22d.June 2005. Instigated by some NGO activists, the villagers have also been using violent means to prevent the POSCO's survey teams and the project officials from visiting the project sites. Medha Patkar and B.D.Sharma had addressed a protest dharna held in front of the chief minister's residence on October 15, 2006. There was a clash between the supporters and opponents of the project at Naugaon, one of the project sites, on 25th. November, 2007 in which 12 people were injured.

The region where the POSCO project is slated to come up is known for its gut-wrenching poverty and natural calamities. A mega project like the proposed steel plant is certain to bring a lot of development and prosperity to the region and it will also create thousands of jobs for the unemployed youths in the state. But the anti-development lobby is adamant on stalling the POSCO project and because of their resistance even the foundation stone for the project could not be laid so far. The project is already delayed by three years.

Kalinganagar Integrated Steel Plant

The Tata Steel is setting up a 6 million tonne per annum integrated steel plant at Kalinganagar in Jajpur district, Orissa with an investment of Rs.16400 crore. As part of the project a captive power plant of 175 MW will also be built. The MOU for the project was signed on 17th. November,2004. The project will create jobs for thousands of unemployed youths in the state. The state government has already allotted 2000 acres of land for the project. However a section of the local villagers under the influence of some netwoking NGOs is opposing the project raking up issues like environmental pollution and project-induced displacement of people. They have also floated an organisation called the Bistapan Virodhi Janamanch for mobilising the local villagers to stall the project. The leaders of this outfit enjoy the backing of NGO activists like Ms.Medha Patkar and B.D.Sharma of National Alliance of People's Movements. On January 2d, 2006, a violent mob of villagers who tried to attack the project workers engaged in constructing a boundary wall at the project site were stopped by the police leading to a confrontation between the villagers and the police. To control the unruly mob, the police had to open fire which resulted in the death of 13 tribal villagers. Since then the villagers have not been allowing the project officials or workers to enter the project site. The villagers also carried out a prolonged road-blockade agitation in the area after the firing incident. The first phase of the project was to be completed in 2008, where as even the preliminary work on the project is yet to begin. The project is already delayed by 3 years.

Utkal Alumina Project

The Utkal Alumina International Ltd. is a joint venture project conceived in 1992 by INDAL, a subsidiary of Hindalco, Alcan, a

Canadian aluminium company and Hydro Aluminiumas of Norway for setting up a bauxite mining plant and an alumina refinery in Kashipur tahsil, Rayagada district in Orissa at an initially estimated cost of Rs.4500 crore. However some local villagers supported and guided by the NGO lobby have been opposing this project from the very beginning alleging loss of livelihood and displacement of people and environmental pollution due to the discharge of effluents from the plant, etc. They also floated an organisation called 'Prakrutika Sampada Suraksha Parishad' (PSSP) to mobilise the people to stall the implementation of the project. The anti-Utkal project agitation of the local villagers was also supported by a foreign NGO called "Alcan't in India" formed by the workers of the Alcan company in Montreal. They had also held a series of protest programmes in Montreal in support of the agitation against the Utkal project in Orissa. The anti-Utkal agitation of the villagers took a violent turn on December 16, 2000 leading to police firing at Maikanch in Kashipur tahsil in which 3 people were killed. In 2001, Hydro Aluminiumas of Norway, one of the partners of the joint venture, withdrew from the project and in July 2007, the second partner 'Alcan' also sold its stake in the project to Hindalco making the Utkal project a 100% subsidiary of the Hindalco. The work on this project is indefinitely delayed because of the violent opposition from a section of the local villagers.

All the other major developmental projects in Orissa undertaken by reputed companies like the Vedanta Resources of UK, the Reliance and the Mittals are also faced with similar militant opposition from the local villagers. This destructive movement is not confined to Orissa alone. It is happening all over the country. Whether it is the Taipaimukh dam in Manipur, the proposed sea port in Pondicherry, Chamalapura thermal power plant in Karnataka, Kancham Wantoo hydal project in Himachal Pradesh or the uranium mining projects in Andhra Pradesh and Meghalaya, it is the same story everywhere. Some of the important mega projects in the country which were either abandoned or inordinately delayed due to the opposition from the anti-development lobby are as under.

Narmada Valley Project

The Narmada valley project was conceived in 1960s as a multi-state project. However the work on the project commenced only in

1978 after the Narmada Water Dispute Tribunal set up in 1969 to resolve the inter-state dispute over sharing of water by Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra, passed its final orders in 1978. The Tribunal had also laid down conditions for the resettlement and rehabilitation of the project-affected people in the three states. When completed, it will be the largest irrigation project ever planned and implemented as a single project anywhere in the world. The project envisages construction of 31 major dams, 135 medium dams and 3000 minor dams. The major dams include the Sardar Sarovar Project in Gujarat and the Narmada (Indira) Sagar Project in Madhya Pradesh which are mered in controversies over rehabilitation and other issues of project-affected people raked up by some social activists.

In 1985, Medha Patkar, a social activist who came to Narmada valley to study the rehabilitation and other problems of the project oustees, launched a movement called the Narmada Bachao Andolan (NBA) which was mainly aimed at stalling the construction of dams on river Narmada citing improper and inadequate rehabilitation package for the project-affected people and environmental problems. She claimed that crucial environmental studies about the project were not conducted, the proclaimed project benefits were fraudulent and a just resettlement of the displaced people was impossible. Highlighting these issues and with the support and cooperation of other like-minded human rights, NGO and environmental activists she soon started a nation-wide campaign against the Narmada project. Medha Patkar's movement also drew the support from the international environmental community after her two trips to Washington in 1987 and 1989. Lori Udall of Environmental Defence Fund (EDF) in Washington had helped her in raising the NBA's concerns with the World Bank which had sanctioned a loan for the Sardar Sarovar Project. Acting on her plea, the World Bank had set up an Independent Review Committee to study the issue of rehabilitation of the project-affected people and other allegations raised by Ms. Patkar against the Project. The Independent Review Committee submitted its report in June 1992 stating that the Sardar Sarovar Project was flawed, rehabilitation of all displaced people was not possible and all aspects of environmental impact were not properly studied and addressed. Following the release of this report, the NGO and environmental activists from across the world wrote an open letter to Wold Bank President Lewis Preston with a warning that

if the Bank refused to withdraw the funding for the Sardar Sarovar Project, the NGOs would launch an international campaign to cut the government funding of the Bank. The letter endorsed by 250 NGOs from 37 countries was also published as a full-page advertisement in the London Financial Times. Full-page advertisement with similar demands were also placed in The Washington Post and New York Times by US-based environmental groups. Under pressure from such groups, the World Bank withdrew the funding for the project in March 1993.

Ms. Patkar had also visited Tokyo in April 1990 to attend a symposium organised as part of her campaign against the Narmada Project in Japan which had promised a loan of $200 million for the turbines for the Sardar Sarovar Project. With the help of some international activists and Japanese NGOs like the Friends of the Earth, she also met some Japanese government officials and apprised them about the problems faced by the dam oustees in the Narmada valley. Within a month of her visit to Tokyo, the Japanese government withdrew all further funding for the project. (Ref. Silenced Rivers: The Ecology and Politics of Large Dams, Patric MuCully)

While the NBA activists proclaim to be following the Gandhian path in realising their goals, many of its activists at the ground level were often found indulging in violence against the members of the Narmada Valley Development Authority. The NBA activists attacked the contractors at the Dharmapuri rehabilitation site in Dhar district on January 7, 2006 causing extensive damage to their vehicles and equipments. The attack was reportedly triggered after the land acquisition officer having doled out the compensation, issued notices to the villagers to relocate to the new site. There were also many instances of NBA activists preventing the project-affected people from settling at rehabilitation sites, often by resorting to violence against pro-dam oustees and government officials engaged in rehabilitation efforts. In some cases, the NBA activists even destroyed schools and clinics at the rehabilitation sites to prevent the resettlement of oustees. The NBA activists have also been indicted in over 200 FIRs in Narmada valley during the last one decade. (Ref. Controversy: Sardar Sarovar Project, India Today, May 15,2006).

When the Narmada waters reached Gujarat for the first time, people of Gujarat celebrated the event by conducting pujas and distributing sweets. The project work which started in 1978 is now expected to be completed by 2012 after a long wait of 34 years, thanks to the destructive campaign carried out by Ms.Medha Patkar and company. Prominent international NGOs which supported the Narmada Bachao Andolan's campaign against the Narmada project include International Rivers Network, Environmental Defence Fund(US), Environmental Policy Institute, National Wildlife Federation, Narmada Solidarity Coalition of New York, Bay Area chapter of Association for India's Development (AID), Narmada Solidarity Network (US) and Friends of the Earth, Japan.

Agitation Against Vadhavan Port in Maharashtra

In February,1997 the government of Maharashtra had signed a MOU with the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company (P&O) of Australia, a subsidiary of P&O Group,London, for construction of an international deep-sea port at Vadhavan near Dahanu in district Thane,Maharashtra. If completed, it would have been the biggest deep-water port in India. However some NGO and environmental activists in the area vehemently opposed this project on the ground of possible environmental damage to the ecologically fragile Dahanu region and the adverse effect it will have on the livelihood of the local fishermen community. Under the joint front of Dahanu Taluka Environment Welfare Association, the People's Alliance for Implementation of Law and the National Fish Workers Forum, they carried out a vigorous campaign against the proposed port in Vadhavan at local, national and also at international level. At the local level, besides mobilising the support of farmers and fishermen community, the anti-port activists also managed to win the support of all political parties for their movement against the port. The campaign against the port also received strong support from international agencies like the UK branch of World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and Rufford Foundation. The WWF-UK mobilised the support of many British MPs for the anti-port stir and several Labour Party MPs and representatives of international NGOs had participated in a protest demonstration it had organised in front of the Indian High Commissioner's office in London in 1997 against the Vadhavan port. The WWF-UK also took

up the issue of environmental consequences of the proposed port with the UK Department of Trade and Industry and with the P&O Hqrs in London. As part of the international campaign, a call-for-action was also posted on the Global Response Action web-site calling upon its readers to send protest letters to the Prime Minister of India and the Chairman of the P&O expressing their objection to the proposed Vadhavan port in India. The WWF-UK had also sought to use an international instrument of public law like the 1976 OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises to stall the port project. However the efforts of WWF-UK did not yield the desired result as the UK Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) was reluctant to interfere in the matter and act against the P&O because of doubts over the applicability of the OECD Guidelines in India.

With the failure of international agencies in coming to their help, the anti-port activists finally decided to take up the issue with the newly formed Dahanu Taluka Environment Protection Authority(DTEPA). The Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF),GOI had forwarded the proposal for developing a new port at Vadhavan to the DTEPA. After going through all the merits and the environmental consequences of the case, the DTEPA gave its final verdict on the issue on 19th. November,1998, concluding that the construction of the proposed mega port at Vadhavan would be impermissible and therefore illegal. Thus the Vadhavan port project had to be abandoned. What is important to note here is that the powerful anti-development lobby had played a key role in setting up of the Dahanu Taluka Environment Protection Authority (DTEPA). Vadhavan, the proposed location of the port, falls under the tribal belt of Thane district which is one of the most backward regions in the country. The tribals in the area are very poor and mostly illiterate and are without any regular employment. Adivasi children dieing of malnutrition is a common occurrence in the area. The proposed mega port would have changed the face of this region and all sections of the people in the area would have benefited by it.

Agitation Against Umbargaon Port in Gujarat

In September,1998, the government of Gujarat awarded a contract for the construction of a Rs.1200- crore port at Maroli village in

Umbargaon taluka close to Gujarat-Maharashtra border to an Indo-US consortium comprising of Unocal, an American-owned oil and gas conglomerate based in California and Natelco, the Mumbai-based National Telecom of India Ltd. The villagers of Umbargaon who were brain-washed and misled by some local environmentalists resorted to a Dahanu-type agitation at Umbargaon also opposing the construction of the proposed port at Maroli. Guided by the anti-development environmental activists, the villagers organised themselves under different banners like Kinara Bachao Sangharsh Samiti (KBSS), Bandar Hatao Samiti (BHS) and Paryavaran Suraksha Samiti (PSS) and started a combined and massive resistance movement against the port alleging that the construction of the proposed port will lead to destruction of marine life and loss of livelihood for the fisher folk and farmers, fall in agricultural yield and devastation of environment. The militant villagers did not allow the developers to carry out any survey work at the project site. Even the survey work carried out in the deep sea was disrupted by the activists who came in speed boats to attack and chase away the survey team. On April 7, 2000 a survey team engaged in survey work at Maroli with heavy police protection was attacked by the agitating villagers resulting in a police lathi-charge. Several villagers were injured in the incident and 48 activists were arrested. On April 8th. morning Lt.Col.(Rtd) Pratap Save, President of KBSS was also arrested by the police. On the same night he was admitted to a local hospital following his complaint of severe body pain and was later shifted to Hinduja hospital in Mumbai. He passed away on April 20th. after a brain surgery. The activists alleged that Pratap Save died of injuries caused by the police torture and used his death as a propaganda tool to intensify the anti-port agitation. Besides the local resistance groups, the anti-port struggle of the villagers of Umbargaon was also backed by various action groups like the National Alliance of People's Movements, Narmada Bachao Andolan, Shoshit Jan Andolan, Kashtakari Sanghatana and National Fish Workers Forum. In May 2000, the Unocal announced its withdrawal from the Maroli port project because of the continued agitation by the local villagers and the work on the project was indefinitely suspended.

The Uranium Story

During the recent controversy over the proposed Indo-US

nuclear deal, a lot has been said and written about the so-called uranium shortage in India which adversely affected the capacity utilisation of our nuclear power plants. But the factual position is an entirely different story. There is no uranium shortage in India. We have got massive reserves of uranium deposits detected at different sites in states like Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Rajastan which is sufficient to run all our present and planned reactors for their entire life period. But unfortunately we have been able to extract uranium so far only from Jaduguda mine in Jharkhand as in all other centres the authorities have been prevented from carrying out any mining work because of the opposition from local villagers, supported and guided by the NGO and environmental activists raising the issue of health hazards. The NGO lobby supported by some foreign agencies has been conducting a relentless misinformation campaign among the local tribals and other villagers in those areas about the serious health hazards they will have to face if uranium mining is permitted in their region. They also allegedly instigate the local villagers to take up their traditional arms to physically stop any mining work in their area. As a result of such tactics by the NGO lobby and also because of suspected internal sabotage, the work on uranium mining plants started 20 or 30 years back like Turamdih in Jharkhand and Domsiasiat in Meghalaya are yet to be completed. In France 80% of the power is provided by nuclear power plants. Australia has the largest reserves of uranium deposit and it supplies uranium to many countries in the world. There is no record of any health hazards to people in those countries. Obviously, the NGO activists who are spreading such canards about health hazards to stall the work on the uranium mining projects in India are serving the interests of their foreign masters who do not want to see India becoming self-reliant in uranium production.

Singur and Nandigram Developments

The violent agitation against the Special Economic Zone at Nandigram and Tata's Nano Project at Singur in West Bengal succeeded in stalling the two projects only because of the support it received from the same NGO lobby. The People's Secular Democratic Front floated by Trinamool Congress leader Mamata Banerji was backed by a group of 21 organisations. This group consisted of five

splinter naxalite factions, three Muslim fundamentalist organisations, Socialist Unity Centre of India (SUCI), Samajwadi Party and a dozen net-working NGOs including the National Alliance of People's Movements (NAPM) of Medha Patkar.

The agitations against various mega developmental projects in the country are well-coordinated at state and central level by a powerful lobby of NGO and environmental activists. These activists are found to have close links with many international NGOs and Foundations and Christian funding agencies. Some of these international agencies have been sometimes found openly supporting the resistance movements against big development projects in India. Earlier only some of the mega projects in the country were opposed by the anti-development lobby where as today almost all mega developmental projects in the country are faced with stiff opposition from this lobby led by a powerful group of networking NGOs at enormous cost to the economic progress of the country. The anti-development lobby has been particularly harsh in targeting certain vital installations and projects like uranium mining, power plants, big dams and ports. The work on almost all new power projects in the country is either stalled or delayed because of the environmental and other issues raked up by these activist groups. The existing power plants with additional power generation capacity are not allowed to utilise their optimum capacity because of the opposition from local environmental groups. For instance, the Dahanu thermal power plant in maharashtra which produces 500 MW of electricity has the capacity to generate 1500 MW of power. But the government has so far not granted permission to the Reliance Energy Ltd. which controls this power plant to produce additional power utilising its full capacity because of objections from some local eco-terrorist groups. Thus it can be seen that these activist groups, supported and financed by certain international agencies, are fully responsible for the present grave power crisis in India. On a closer scrutiny we can see a common strategy and pattern and also some dangerous dimensions associated with the functioning of the anti-development lobby in India as explained below.

As soon as the location of a mega project is announced, the state level leaders of the NGO-environment lobby visit the location and conduct a thorough study about the area and population and then

win over the trust and loyalty of some influential leaders of the local Dalit/tribal villagers with their money power. After brainwashing them about the immense harm that the project could cause to the local villagers and the environment, the NGO leaders along with their new-found local friends launch a massive misinformation campaign among the villagers about the dangerous consequences like displacement of people, loss of livelihood and air and water pollution that they will have to face if the project is allowed in their area. They also guide the local leaders in floating one or two anti-project fronts to mobilise the local villagers and to build up a resistance movement against the project.

The activists during their briefing sessions tell the villagers that the forests, hills and rivers in their area are all owned by them and the government or the industrialists have no authority for the commercial exploitation of the mineral and water resources owned by the villagers. They tell them that by setting up industrial projects in their area, the government and the industrialists make a lot of money while the villagers who actually owned the mineral resources in the area are subjected to suffer the consequences of the project like displacement, loss of livelihood and ill-effects of air and water pollution. They further exhort the villagers to oppose the project at any cost, if necessary by taking recourse to violence. These NGO activists are thus promoting militancy among the tribal and Dalit villagers.

After mobilising the support of a sizable section of the villagers, the NGO activists then approach the local political leaders especially those from the left parties to seek their support for the people's resistance movement against the project and manage to win their support by convincing them about the growing anti-project sentiments among the local villagers. This is done to make their campaign more effective and to show that their agitation enjoys wider mass support.

All agitations against mega development projects are actively supported by various naxalite outfits including the CPI-(Maoist), the most dominant group. All such agitations are also supported by various church agencies in the area.

As a result of such organised resistance and violent protests, the work on hundreds of mega projects in the country has been stalled or delayed and a number of such projects have been abandoned. The extent of damage caused to the Indian economy because of such delays and disruptions in executing the various developmental projects in the country is unimaginable. The question naturally arises as to why some of our own people are engaged in such self-destructive activities aimed at stalling the country's economic progress. For an answer to this question we have to go into the origin and philosophy of the networking NGOs.

Origin of the Networking NGOs

There are thousands of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) functioning in the country since independence which are engaged in running orphanages, educational institutions, hospitals and such other philanthropic activities. These NGOs, founded mostly under religious inspiration do not have any common net-working or aims and objectives. Such NGOs are generally harmless and they do not come under the label of activist or networking NGOs.

The evolution of activist NGOs with state and national level networking is a phenomenon that took root in 1960s, picked up momentum in 1970s and emerged as a parallel political force in 1980s. The establishment of this NGO network was a carefully planned part of a well-calculated strategy by the capitalist countries led by the USA for direct intervention in the rest of the world, especially in the third world countries for giving development assistance to the rural poor with the hidden objective of curbing the growth of communism. There was extreme poverty and a lot of inequalities in the third world countries in those days and the ground situation in many of those countries was very conducive and fertile for the growth of revolutionary movements. The capitalist forces were apprehensive about the Soviet block taking advantage of such a situation to spread its sphere of influence to all such countries by engineering revolutionary regime change and it was mainly to prevent such a possibility that the capitalist lobby led by the USA started giving development assistance to the rural poor in those countries through the NGO network.

However around mid-seventies there was a significant shift in the functioning of this NGO network with many of the new NGOs adopting a militant line and some of the existing NGOs also opting for a similar militant line of action. From the subsequent style of functioning of these NGOs, it was evident that the adoption of a militant line by the networking NGOs was the result of a sinister strategy worked out by certain western intelligence and funding agencies to indulge in political activism by proxy in third world countries to influence and control the ruling regimes in those countries. The objectives of this strategy however differed from one country to another depending upon the strategic requirements of the capitalist lobby in different countries. This new strategy called for the establishment of a large network of militant NGOs/social action groups all over the country, especially in the interior rural and tribal areas. As per this strategy new NGO action groups were to be established in remote areas of the country after making a thorough study of the area and identifying the target groups like Dalits, Adivasis and other marginalised sections of the people. The activists were required to interact more closely with the villagers to study their various problems and grievances and also to win over their support and confidence. In the name of empowering such weaker sections of people, the activists then start educating the villagers about their citizenship and land rights, etc. and convince them as to how their legitimate rights and privileges are denied to them by the corrupt and arrogant civil, police and forest officials. The activists explain to them about the circumstances that forced them to remain in perpetual poverty and the need to assert themselves for restoration of their legitimate rights and to fight for their honour and dignity. After creating such anti-establishment feelings among the villagers, the activists motivate and guide them to assert themselves by launching a militant people's movement to get their various problems and grievances redressed. This new militant NGO movement known as action group movement was actually copied from the radical Christian action group movement launched by the liberation theology activists in Latin American countries like Peru, Bolivia and Mexico in late 1960s. The liberation theology movement is a radical pro-Marxist church movement which while retaining its faith in Jesus Christ believed that the Marxist line of action was the most desirable option to liberate the rural poor in the third world countries from their

poverty and enslavement. By early seventies the liberation theology movement had spread to African and Asian countries also including India. The net-working NGOs in India and other third world countries adopted the radical leftist movement sponsored by liberation theology in a massive way for the empowerment of marginalised sections of people in India with the hidden agenda of realising their larger political goals in the long run. The liberation theologians in Latin American countries had actually rebelled against the church and accepted the Marxist line of action to start a militant people's movement to liberate the oppressed rural poor. But that was not the case in India. A good number of NGO action groups in India were actually launched by various church agencies and were thus controlled by them. Both the Catholic and Protestant church agencies had thus used the liberation theology label to induct thousands of Christian activists into the action group movement to push for their own agenda of promoting militancy and Christianity among the tribals and other marginalised sections of people in India. The action group movement of net-working NGOs is totally supported, financed and controlled by some Western and European Foundations and Christian funding agencies.

Components of Action Group Movement

Action groups and support groups are the two major components of the action group movement. The action groups are those networking NGOs, which are actually working in the field educating and empowering the marginalised sections of people mainly in the remote rural and tribal areas of the country and organising militant people's movements taking up the various problems and grievances of the rural poor. The support groups consist of pro-leftist intellectuals and human rights activists representing the influential and elite sections of the society like retired judges, senior advocates, eminent academics, retired bureaucrats, writers, journalists, theatre personalities and ex-servicemen who use their power and influence to mobilise the support of intellectual class in different fields and use them as pressure groups to exert influence on the government for favourable action on issues taken up by the action groups. They also conduct press conferences and seminars and even undertakes world tours to canvass support for the campaigns, struggles and movements undertaken by the action groups.

Anti-national Activities of the Action Group NGOs

The anti-development lobby that tries to stop all development projects in the country is totally controlled by the action group movement of the networking NGOs. This lobby may take up issues like environmental pollution, rehabilitation of the displaced people, etc. to stop a particular project. But such issues are raked up only to fool and misguide the local villagers as the real reason for the anti-development campaign is that these activists are opposed to industrialisation and development. They do not hide this fact any more. In their campaign against big industrial projects, they are now openly telling the villagers that industrialisation is an anti-poor movement as while the government and industrialists reap all profits, the poor villagers have to suffer all the disadvantages and ill-effects of an industrial project. At a public meeting held at Kalinganagar (Orissa) on January 2, 2007 to observe the first anniversary of the killing of 13 tribals in the police firing during their agitation against the proposed steel plant at Kalinganagar, all the speakers described the government's industrialisation drive as anti-poor and reaffirmed their decision to oppose it at any cost. The real objectives of the anti-development lobby in misguiding the local villagers and blocking all mega industrial projects in the country are as under:

The action group NGOs are mostly based in the remote rural and tribal areas in the country where the people are extremely poor and illiterate and mostly unemployed. In the name of empowerment of such marginalised sections of people, the NGO activists are actually promoting militancy among them by motivating them to fight for their rights through violent means. Industrialiation will bring development and prosperity to a particular area and the local people will then become less susceptible to the evil designs of the NGO activists to create chaos and lawlessness in the country as desired by their foreign masters. The NGO activists who promote militancy among the tribals can not carry on with their shady activities in an urbanised area as it will invite the attention of the general public and the law enforcing agencies. So they oppose all developmental activities.

The Christian missionaries are also very active in all the remote and tribal areas in the country luring the poor and illiterate masses

into Christian fold with all kinds of inducements. They run Balwadis, health care centres and conduct such other welfare activities for the poor with the ultimate objective of converting them into Christianity. Remoteness of the area and extreme poverty of the people are the two prerequisites for their effective functioning to achieve the desired goals. Development brings prosperity to the people which is not in the interest of the Christian missionaries. Hence they are also vehemently opposed to all developmental projects. Since the action groups are funded mostly by the Christian funding agencies, the NGO action groups and church activists are always closely linked. More over, there are many action groups exclusively run by certain church agencies. Predictably both the action groups and the church activists are united in their opposition to all developmental projects in the country.

By supporting the anti-development agitation of the action group NGOs in India, the international NGOs and funding agencies are supporting the cause of Christian missionaries who want the villagers in the rural India to remain poor and illiterate which will help them in their proselytisation drive. In promoting the anti-development campaign in India, they also have an added objective of implementing the imperialist lobby's agenda of blocking the country's economic progress. Because, the imperialist countries consider it as in their vital interest to stall the economic progress of the developing countries for maintaining their own dominant position in the world.

Stance on various anti-national movements

The NGO and human rights activists openly express their support and sympathy for various anti-national movements like the Naxalite, Islamic militancy and secessionist movements in the country. For them, the naxalite movement is a socio-economic problem and it should be dealt with sympathy and understanding and not with force. They consider the Muslim militancy in India as a product of their long sufferings and discrimination, and the injustice done to them by the wrong and biased policies of the government. According to them, the separatist movements in the North-Eastern region and Kashmir should be viewed as a reflection of the suppressed aspirations and legitimate grievances of the people and a solution to the problem should be sought through peaceful dialogue. When scores of security personnel are killed

in a terrorist or naxalite attack, these activists keep a steady silence. But in contrast, even if a single cadre of a naxalite or any other militant group is killed in an operation by security forces, they make a big hue and cry about it alleging fake encounter or cold-blooded murder and gross human rights violations,etc.and rush to take up the matter with some international human rights organisations and other such agencies which patronise them. When hundreds of innocent people were killed in the serial train blasts in Mumbai, these activists were nowhere to be seen or heard. But when some local Muslims were detained by the police for questioning in connection with the ghastly incident, the whole hell broke loose with the these activists alleging harassment and intimidation of an entire community for a crime committed by some unknown miscreants. They held press conferences to condemn the harassment of Muslims in the name of police investigation and also met the state chief minister seeking his personal intervention to restrain the police from harassing the Muslims. In states like Manipur and J&K the security forces are routinely targeted and attacked by various militant groups and many senior army officers are also getting killed in such attacks. These NGO and human rights activists never condemn such attacks on security forces. But they always support the exaggerated claims and allegations raised by the militant groups against the army and other security forces and conduct extensive campaigns both within and outside India to malign them all as rapists, abductors and murderers of innocent people causing a great deal of demoralisation among them. It is not claimed here that all our security personnel are paragons of virtue and that they never commit any mistakes. There are reportedly about three lakh security personnel posted in Kashmir and there could be some lapses on their part on certain occasions. Sometimes there may be some instances of some innocent people also getting killed in the cross-fire during the anti-militant operations or in encounters with the terrorists. In such encounters sometimes innocent people get killed in the cross-fire by the bullets fired by the militants as well. But these are rare cases and the campaigns by human rights activists exaggerating and highlighting such incidents to defame the entire flock of security personnel as criminals and murderers is only meant to demoralise them and to support the demand of the militants for the withdrawal of Indian troops from Kashmir.

Opposition to stringent anti-terror laws

The NGO and human rights activists are opposed to the enactment of any stringent laws like TADA, POTA, etc. which could facilitate effective action against Maoist and other terrorist elements. They allege that such draconian laws are always misused by the police to harass innocent people. They were in the forefront of the successful nation-wide campaign for the abolition of TADA and POTA. They have also been pressing for the abolition of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) which is in force in J&K and North Eastern states. But because of the stiff resistance from the army, they could not get it abolished so far. However their efforts are still on for the withdrawal of the AFSPA as well. In short, these activists want to protect all militant and terrorist groups in the country from any stringent laws and make life easier for the militants to carry on with their anti-national activities.

Anti-Hindu Tirade

The self-proclaimed secularists of this anti-national lobby have an inherent hatred towards the RSS and other Sangh Parivar organisations like the VHP and Bajrang Dal. With the support of a biased media, they have been carrying out a relentless hate campaign to project the Sangh Parivar outfits as the most communal, fascist and fanatic organisations and holding them responsible for the growing communal divide in India. The Babri Masjid demolition and Gujarat riots came quite handy for them to step up their campaign against the Sangh Parivar at national and international level with the help of some international NGOs and Christian funding organisations. The action group lobby had also played a key role in the campaign held in the US against granting visa to Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi to visit the US twice in the past. The VHP and Bajrang Dal activists may have committed some excesses especially while dealing with the Christian missionaries whose extremely provocative activities in the remote and tribal regions in the country generally remain unnoticed. Their nationalistic credentials can however never be questioned. The patriotic zest and nationalistic credentials of the Sangh Parivar activists have naturally come as a big stumbling block against the anti-national designs of the NGOs lobby, which explains their paranoiac attitude towards the Sangh Parivar.

These lobbyists have no qualms of conscience in joining together with the Christian missionaries or Islamic fundamentalists in launching joint campaigns against the alleged fascist and communal activities of the Sangh Parivar. But the point to note is that the Sangh Parivar is not their only target. Their attack is also aimed at Hinduism itself, though not directly. They support and use Dalit leaders like Udit Raj and V.T.Raj Shekhar to unleash malicious campaigns against Hinduism both within and outside India. These leaders undertake frequent world tours to some Western and European countries to participate in meetings and seminars organised by various human rights outfits or Christian organisations and to indulge in venomous anti-Hindu propaganda by narrating all kinds of stories about the atrocities and sufferings that the Dalits in India are subjected to by the upper class Hindus.

The NGO lobby in India and its supporters in the US had a role in the inclusion of some distortions of historical facts in the sixth grade text book approved by California State Board of Education which depicted the indigenous people as the original inhabitants of India and Hindus as invaders from outside. Efforts by some Hindu organisations and historians to correct these distortions were consistently opposed by this NGO lobby. Such distortions have now started appearing in the school and college text books in India as well. In the History text book for BA (Hons) second year course of the Delhi University, there is a chapter titled "Three Hundred Ramayanas" written by one A. K. Ramanujam which denigrates Sri Ram, Lakshman, Sita and Hanuman and describes the entire Ramayana as fallacious. The author quoting from Santhal folklore states that Ravan as well as Lakshman both seduced Sita. No one has ever tried to defame Sita's character so brazenly as A. K. Ramanujam has done.

The NGO Lobby has also started a new campaign to encourage the worship of Ravan in Jharkhand and other tribal regions in the country to create confusion and misunderstanding among the Hindu tribals who worship Shri Ram and Hanuman. In this new campaign, the activists have also managed to win the support of former Jharkhand Chief Minister Shibu Soran who while talking to the media people during the Dussara festival in 2008 had stated that he can not think of committing such a sinful act as burning the effigy of Ravan, who was a great Shiv bhakt.

While working among the Adivasis, these activist groups tell them how the forest land which belonged to their ancestors was systematically taken over by the government led by the Brahminic forces and how they were rendered encroachers upon their own land. They also often tell the Adivasi villagers that they have their own distinct tradition and culture and their own separate Gods and ask them to be alert and cautious against the efforts of some Hindu organisations to project them as part of the Hindu religion.

Carrying out their campaign in the Dalit localities, these activists explain to the Dalit villagers as to how they were kept in a slave-like condition and exploited by the Brahminic forces for thousands of years. They exhort them to rise up and challenge the oppressive system still controlled by the Brahminic forces and take revenge against such forces for the injustice done to them in the past. The aim of such campaigns among Dalits and Adivasis is to create a feeling of alienation among them from Hinduism.

Such campaigns to weaken the Hindu society have now started within other non-Brahmin sections of Hindus also at the behest of this activist groups. In Maharashtra, the Marathas constitute the major component of middle class Hindus. Some new militant Maratha organisations that have sprung up in the recent past have started a virulent hate campaign against the Brahmins in the state. These organisations include the Sambhaji Brigade, Maratha Seva Sangh, Jijau Brigade, Shiv Rajya Party and Shambhu Sena, with the Sambhaji Brigade being the most militant and fanatic outfit. These organisations have been demanding the removal of the sculpture of Dadoji Konddeo at Lal Mahal in Pune pointing out that Shivaji, a Maratha, could never have been a disciple of Konddeo, a Brahmin, a stand that goes against accepted history. Meanwhile succumbing to the pressure tactics of this anti-Brahmin lobby, the Maharashtra government has withdrawn the Dadoji Konddeo Award for the best sports coach in the state this year, and the government is thinking of changing the name of this award. Activists of Sambhaji Brigade had also ransacked the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute at Pune in January 2004, allegedly for extending its library facilities to American author James Laine who had used some abusive remarks against Shivaji's parents in his book "A Hindu King in Islamic India". While Shivaji had done everything

to cement the unity of Hindus, these organisations are using Shivaji's name to indulge in activities aimed to create disunity among the Hindus. In fact the anti-Brahmin campaign of these organisations is only a cover to indulge in activities aimed to divide and weaken the Hindu society. Purushottam Khedekar, a PWD Engineer employed with the state government is the brain behind formation of these anti Brahmin organisations. He has also floated a new religion called 'Shiv Dharma' which is claimed to be based on the ideology of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. But the followers of this new religion are asked to shun their Hindu identity and throw out the photos and idols of Hindu Gods and Goddesses that they worship at home. This is what the Christian missionaries also ask their target groups like Dalits and Adivasis to follow. Similar directives to shun all symbols of Hindu identity are also issued to all members who attend the camps of the Sambhaji Brigade. So it is clear that these organisations are promoted and financed by some outside agencies for dividing and destroying the Hindu society. It is also worth noting that the Sambhaji Brigade has also established a branch in New York which is led by Swapnil Khedekar, son of Purushotam Khedekar. Some American citizens are also associated with Sambhaji Brigade's activities in New York.

Khairlanji incident

The NGO activists take a keen interest in all incidents of violence against the Dalits in the country and play a crucial role in projecting and exaggerating all such incidents as caste atrocities committed by upper caste Hindus, with the sole intention of creating a feeling of alienation among the Dalits in the country. For instance let us take up the massacre of a Dalit family of Khairalanji village in Bhandara distrit located about 100 kms from Nagpur in Mahatrashtra. Khairlanji is a small sleepy village which houses about 150 families which include three Dalit families, four Adivasi families and the rest all belonging to OBCs like Kunbi or Kalar. The Bhotmanges were one of the three Dalit families in the village dominated by Kunbis who are slightly higher in cast hierarchy. There was an unresolved issue of a passage demanded by the Kunbi villagers through the five-acre farm of Bhaiyyalal Bhotmange. Siddharth Gajbhiye, a Dalit and Police Patil of the nearby Dhusala village was a relative and also a close friend and supporter of Bhotmange family. On September, 3,

2006, Gajbhiye was beaten up by some Kunbi villagers for his support to Bhotmange family. On the same day Gajbhiye and Bhotmange family members lodged a complaint against the villagers and on the basis of a statement given by Bhotmange's wife Surekha, 12 Kunbi landlords were arrested. On September, 29, 2006, the landlords got bail and later on the same day the accused along with a violent mob of their supporters mounted a revenge attack on the Bhotmange family. Not finding Siddharth Gajbhiye or Bhaiyyalal Bhotmange in the home, they dragged out Surekha Gajbihye, her daughter Priyanka and sons Roshan and Sudhir. Surekha and Priyanka were allegedly stripped, raped and paraded naked and all the four were beaten to death and their bodies were thrown into a canal. On September, 30, 2006, a FIR was filed at Andhalgaon police station on the basis of complaint lodged by Bhaiyyalal Bhotmange and the case was lalter transferred to CBI on November, 20, 2006. On December, 6, 2006, a 46-page report on the incident titled "Organised killing of Dalits in Khairlanji" was posted on the website of the Pune-based government organisation 'Yashwantrao Chavan Academy of Development & Administration' (YASHDA). The report alleged that Surekha and her daughter Priyanka were stripped and gang-raped before they were beaten to death and described the entire incident as a caste atrocity. The police had allowed their naked bodies which were fished out from a canal to be photographed publicly. These pictures were also displayed on the official website of the YASHDA.

Following the Khairlanji killings there were widespread protests in Nagpur region which soon fanned out nationwide. The activist groups in the country had given wide propaganda to the incident projecting it as a brutal caste atrocity committed by the upper caste Hindus of Khairlangi. The police had a tough time controlling the rampaging mobs in Maharashtra. Trains and State Transport buses were burnt in some places and shops and other public property also faced the wrath of the agitators. The action group NGOs, various naxalite factions and Dalit organisations were in the forefront of the agitation. Though it was alleged that Surekha and Priyanka were gang-raped, the report of the postmortems conducted twice revealed that there had been no rape. While delivering the judgment in the case on September,15, 2008, the Bhandara ad hoc District and Session Court convicted eight out of the eleven accused for murder where as the

other three were acquitted. However, the judge categorically rejected the allegation of any caste atrocity in the incident and refused to apply the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 against the accused. The Khairlanji killings were gruesome, but the allegations of gang-rape and caste atrocity were stories fabricated by some activist groups. The other two Dalit families in the Khairlanji village also consistently asserted that there was never any caste tension in the village before or after the Khairlanji incident and they had never felt insecure or faced any threat from any quarters. The Yashwantrao Chavan Academy of Development and Administration of Pune which had posted a 46-page report on the Khairlanji killings on its website had tried to sensationalise the issue further by prejudging it as a caste atrocity. Incidentally the Director Board of YASHDA is dominated by representatives of action group NGOs who include an Americal lady who has now taken the Indian citizenship.

Infiltration into Government Bodies / Committees / Institutions

The action group NGOs have inducted their nominees into almost all government bodies, institutes and committees so as to influence their decisions. These committees includes powerful bodies like UGC, NCERT, National Minority Commission, National Human Rights Commission, National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad, Yahswantrao Chavan Academy for Development and Administration-Pune, Working Group on Forests for the Environment and Forests Sector for the Eleventh Five-Year Plan, Standing Committee on Inter Sectoral Issues Relating to Tribal Development constituted by the Prime Minister and even the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission had recently set up a committee to study the growing menace of the naxalite problem in the country and suggest remedial measures. Majority of the members in this committee were nominees of the action group NGOs. Predictably the committee came out with a report describing the naxalite problem as a socio-economic problem which needs to be tackled with sympathy and understanding. The report ascribed the growth of naxalite movement to people's discontent and failure of the system and asked the government to hold peace talks with the naxal leaders. On the other hand the committee was very harsh on 'Salva Judum', a people's resistance movement

launched by the tribals in Chattisgarh to resist the violence, extortion threats and other pressure tactics of the Maiost cadres and recommended immediate disbanding of the 'Salva Judum'. Reportedly there were only two dissenting voices from the committee members, probably from the two retired IPS officers in the committee.

The action group leaders have also built up powerful lobbies among the leading politicians mainly within Congress-I and also among the retired SC and HC judges, academics, lawyers, journalists, writers and theatre personalities to mobilise public opinion for their various campaigns.

Action Group-Maoist Links

Some of these NGO and human rights leaders are so closely linked with certain naxalite outfits that they could be described as the overground faces of underground naxal cadres. When hundreds of policemen are killed and their arms looted by Maoists in states like Chattisgarh, Jharkhand and Orissa, these activists never raise there voice against such violent acts. When the innocent villagers are subjected to extortion and coerced to join the Maoist movement, these activists have no problem. But when the harassed and intimidated villagers finally decided to organise themselves to resist such violence and pressure tactics of the Maoists by forming a people's resistance movement called Salva Judum in Chattisgarh, they all became furious and started crying foul. They accused the government of Chattisgarh of encouraging the villagers in indulging in fratricidal killings by supporting the Salva Judum movement. With the support of a biased media they even launched a massive campaign at national and international level to get the Salva Judum movement disbanded. Because, they do not want any hurdles, any resistance or any opposition to the Maoist movement. In fact it is because of the support given by the NGO action groups that has helped the naxalite movement to spread its influence to most parts of interior India.

Origin and Growth of Naxalite Movement in India

The naxalite movement in India originated in 1967 from a small village called Naxalbari located near Siliguri in West Bengal. It

started in the form of an agrarian uprising led by Charu Majumdar and Kanu Sanyal, two radical CPM activists who were influenced by the revolutionary thoughts and teachings of the Chinese communist leader Mao Tse Tung. Though the government of West Bengal was able to suppress this violent uprising, this peasant uprising soon caught the fancy of many leftist intellectuals and young radicals in the country and a new movement of left extremists was born in the country with formation of some independent left extremist groups in states like West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. Since the agrarian uprising in Naxalbari village had given the inspiration for the emergence of these radical groups, they all came to be known as naxal groups and the followers of this movement were called naxalites. This movement led by veteran leaders like Charu Majumdar in West Bengal, Kondappilli Sitaramaiyyah in Andhra Pradesh had drawn good response from the people in the initial stage but soon it started splitting and disintegrating because of the ego clashes among its leaders. It was at this stage ie around mid-seventies that the net-working NGOs started its action group movement in the country and some of its leaders started befriending leaders of various naxalite groups for their cooperation in building up militant people's movements to oppose the anti-poor policies of the government. In due course, the NGO action groups were able to establish a working relationship with some of the leading naxalite groups in the country. With this mutually beneficial understanding and association between the two movements, the disintegrating naxal groups got a fresh lease of life with the support it received from the action groups and the action group movement got an appropriate ally to push forward its anti-national operations as desired by its controlling agencies in the imperialist block. This close cooperation between the NGO action groups and leading naxalite outfits got considerably strengthened in the recent past with the induction of a number of action group volunteers into major naxalite groups like the CPI (Maoist) and CPI-ML led by Kanu Sanyal. Many Christian action group cadres have also been inducted into prominent naxalite groups under the garb of liberation theology activists. For instance Vernon Gonsalves @ Vikram,a state committee member of Maharashtra unit of CPI (Maoist) who was arrested by the ATS, Maharashtra, in August,2007 and another top Maoist leader Arun Ferreira, r/o Bandra, who was arrested by Nagpur police have both

confessed to the police that they are activists of liberation theology movement. A number of human rights activists including Dr.Binayak Sen,Vice President of PUCL, have also been arrested in the recent past for their close links with the Maoist movement in the country confirming the close links between the Maoist movement and NGO and human rights net-work. Since the Christian action groups in the country are all controlled by various church agencies, many church leaders in India are also now directly linked with the naxalite movement. So when Sabyasachi Panda, a top Maoist leader of Orissa claims responsibility for the killing of VHP leader Swami Laxmanananda Saraswati and four others at his ashram in Kandhamal district on August 23,2008, it does not help to absolve the church activists from the charge of involvement in the crime.

The naxalite movement in the country had enjoyed maximum mass support during the period from 1969 to 1974. However despite the dynamic leadership provided by leaders like Charu Majumdar and Sitaramaiyyah the support base of the naxalite movement was mostly confined to the three states of West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. By 1975 the naxal movement had started disintegrating and it is only because of its association with the action group movement since mid-seventies that it was able to sustain itself. Today with the full support and all possible assistance from the networking NGOs and also with the systematic induction of a large number of NGO activists into major naxalite groups, the naxal movement in the country has now become very powerful and it continues to make inroads into more and more new areas, especially in the remote and tribal regions. About 170 districts in 15 states in the country are now reportedly considered as naxal-infested. This unprecedented growth of naxalite movement in the country can be attributed to the support and encouragement it receives from the action group movement of networking NGOs which has got a strong and wide network all over the country. The irony of the situation is that the naxalite movement which proclaims to be the greatest crusader against the imperialist lobby is presently controlled by the action group movement which in turn is promoted, financed and controlled by the same imperialist lobby.

Comments

There is a very powerful lobby of anti-national elements in the country masquerading as NGO and human rights activists who support and promote naxalite and all other anti-national movements in the country like the Islamic terrorism, separatist movement in Kashmir, insurgency in the North-East, ULFA in Assam, Khalistani movement in Punjab, LTTE in Tamil Nadu, Dalit militancy and caste conflicts across the country and agitation against big developmental projects and special economic zones. These lobbyists, supported, financed and controlled by some foreign intelligence and funding agencies are opposed to the emergence of India as an economic superpower. They are bent upon blocking all our big developmental projects and creating chaos and lawlessness all over the country. In fact these activists do not believe in the concept of India as a nation state. They do not believe in nationalism and national boundaries. They argue that India was never a united single entity in the past and point out that it was a conglomeration of different kingdoms which were brought together as an artificial united entity by the Britishers for administrative convenience. They further argue that the people in different states of India speak different languages, lead different life styles and have different food habits and point out that people in Punjab and Kashmir have nothing in common with people of Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Hence according to them, any state in India whether it is Punjab, Kashmir, Assam or Tamil Nadu which wants to secede from India should be allowed to do so. This is a theory being propagated by some American and Christian think tanks who want to see the disintegration of India through a USSR-type break-up which will be in tune with the strategic interests of the USA. The main advantage to the USA by the break up of India is that it will be easier for the US to win over the loyalty of most of the newly born smaller nations carved out of erstwhile India and to set up military bases surrounding and targeting China. Secondly India will cease to be a threat to the future interests of the US in South Asia. The Christian interest in this game plan is to further strengthen its aggressive conversion drive taking advantage of the internal turmoil and chaos in India, a plan which is already under execution.

The launch of action group movement in India using some voluntary groups around mid 1970s was the most significant development in the history of post independent India as it marked the beginning of the evolution of the biggest threat and gravest challenge to the unity and integrity of India. When the voluntary group movement was started in 1960s, its objectives were focused on containing the spread of communist influence in the third world countries by helping to improve the economic conditions of the rural poor and to expand the hold of American sphere of influence and also to promote Christianity. The launch of the action group movement in mid-seventies is the outcome of a clear cut strategy worked out by some American think tanks and international Christian agencies to penetrate the socio-political structures in the third world countries and influence and control the ruling regimes in those countries. The main objectives of this movement varied from one country to another in accordance with the specific interests and goals of the capitalist lobby in a particular country. The most frightening aspect of the designs of this lobby that have become clear now is that they will go to any extent and adopt any ruthless methods to achieve their political objectives in a particular country even if it meant resorting to political assassinations or mass killing of innocent people by engineering factional feuds and rivalries. The major objectives of this capitalist lobby in India include containing the communist movement represented by the CPM and CPI, promoting Christianity by creating divisions and dissensions within the Hindu society and encouraging all militant and secessionist movements in the country with the ultimate objective of balkanization of India. This vital decision taken in early 1970s by the capitalist lobby led by the USA to destabilize India has direct relevance to India's role in 1971 war with Pakistan, which resulted in the division of Pakistan and creation of Bangladesh. The fact that despite USA's support to Pakistan and its threat of intervention in the war by sending the US Navy's 7th fleet to Bay of Bengal, India, on the strength of its Friendship Treaty with the Soviet Union, went ahead and achieved its objective of liberating Bangladesh, was the greatest blow and insult to the US in the 20th century. It was in the strategic interest of the USA to weaken and destabilize India to avoid any threat to US interests in South Asia from a militarily and economically stronger India in future. The US vindictiveness against India's support to Bangladesh leader Mujibur

Rehman was soon found in the form of a brutal massacre of Shaikh Mujibur Rehman and most of his family members through a military coup on 15th.August,1975, reportedly engineered jointly by the ISI and CIA.

Fifth Column

The NGO and human rights action groups which support and promote all anti-national movements in the country are supported and financed by some international funding agencies like the Oxfam, Action Aid and World Vision and some American Foundations like the Ford, Rockefeller and Carnegie which are all controlled by the US and its allies. Clearly there is an international conspiracy hatched by the imperialist lobby led by the US to destabilise the country by promoting internal conflicts and chaos and blocking our economic progress with the ultimate objective of ensuring the disintegration of India through a USSR-type break-up. The NGO and human rights action groups in India constitute a "fifth column" created by this imperialist block to realise their dream. If India is to be saved, this "fifth column" of traitors and anti-national elements needs to be destroyed.

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Chapter-III

The Sachar Committee Report

As per the Notification issued by the PMO, a seven-member High Level Committee, headed by Justice (Retd.) Rajindar Sachar was constituted in March 2005 to study the social, economic and educational status of the Muslim community in India and recommend necessary measures for their economic upliftment. The committee consisted of the following members:

- Justice (Retd). Rajinder Sachar, : Chairman
  Former Chief Justice of Delhi High Court.

- Abusaleh Shariff, : Member Secretary
  Economist. Nominated member of Markazi Majilise Amla,
  Chief Economist at National Council for Applied
  Eco. Research.

- T. K. Oommen, Sociologist. : Member

- M. A. Basith, : Member
  Sr. Director, Planning Dept; Karnataka.

- Dr. Rakesh Basant, : Member
  Economist.

- Dr. Akhtar Majeed, : Member
  Academician, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences,
  Jamia Hamdard University, Delhi.

- Prof. Saiyid Hamid, : Member
  Chancellor, Jamia Hamdard University, Delhi,
  Member National Executive,
  All India Muslim Majlis -e - Mushawarat (AIMMM).

The committee headed by Rajindar Sachar submitted its report to the Government on November 17, 2006 and the same was tabled in the Parliament on November 30th, 2006. Some of the recommendations and observations of the committee are as under:

Recommendations and Observations

The Muslim community is lagging behind other religious groups in India as per most development indicators. The community is relatively poor, mostly illiterate, has lower access to education, lower representation in public and private sector jobs and lower availability of bank credits for self employment.

The Muslims are placed even lower than the SCs on many human resources indicators like education and health.

The percentage of Muslims in government service is only 4.9 % and in the security agencies their share is only 2.3% indicating an anti-Muslim bias at the entry point level.

The Muslim performance is below average on all socio-economic scales.

The community mostly lives in slums, characterized by poor municipal infrastructure and their insecurity and ghettoization is on the rise.

The growth of Muslims population has slowed down.

The percentage of Muslim inmates in jails is disproportionately high. In Maharashtra it is as high as 40%, whereas the community makes up only 10.6% of the population. In Gujarat, the Muslims constitute about 9.06% of the population, where as they form 25% of inmates in jails in state.

Emphasizing the need to enhance the representation of Muslims in all arms of the government and even the judiciary, the committee suggests the creation of an Equal Opportunity Commission. The Equal Opportunity Commission is proposed to be patterned after the UK's Racial Opportunity Commission and is supposed to provide relief to individuals against discrimination they suffer on daily basis.

All selection panels should include representatives from minority communities to avoid any bias or discrimination.

There should be equitable distribution of available jobs in the formal sectors for Muslims.

All districts where Muslim make up more than 25% of the population should be brought under the purview of the government's 15-point programme for the minorities.

There should be grater participation of Muslims in governance. Out of the 543 members in the present Lok Sabha, only 33 of them belong to the Muslim community. A carefully conceived nomination procedure has to be worked out to increase the participation of minorities at the grass-root level.

Adequate steps should be taken to promote Urdu language.

There should an increase in the UGC grants to community-run colleges and schools.

Various sections of Muslims falling under the category of 'Arzals' engaged in traditional occupation like the Hindu SCs should be designated as most backward classes and multifarious measures including reservation should be taken for their upliftment.

There should be some reforms in the madrassa educational system to improve the study of regular subjects like Science, Geography and Mathematics. There should be a mechanism to link up the madrassas with the Higher Secondary School Board, so that the madrassa students wanting to shift to regular main stream schools can do so after passing out from the madrassas. Degrees from madrassas be granted recognition for eligibility to appear for competitive examinations like civil services, banks and defense service examinations.

Muslim Reaction and Affirmative Action

The Sachar Committee Report, as expected, had created a lot of resentment and anger among the Muslim community as their worst fears and suspicion about the bias and discrimination against the Muslims have now been confirmed by the committee headed by Rajindar Sachar. Muslim leaders belonging to different social and religious organizations and political parties condemned the anti- Muslim bias prevailing in the country, which according to them was the major factor responsible for the socio-economic backwardness of the Muslim community. They also demanded immediate corrective measures and affirmative action to undo the injustice done to the community over the years. Leaders of other political parties like the left parties, Samajwadi Party, RJD and the Congress had also come out expressing grave concern over the findings of the Sachar Committee and seeking immediate remedial measures.

On the initiative of the 'Movement for Peace and Justice', a front organization of the Jamaat-e-Islami-Hind, a public meeting was held at Azad Maidan, Mumbai at 15.00 hrs on 10th March 2007 to demand the immediate implementation of the recommendations of the Sachar Committee. Besides many Muslim MPs and MLAs, leaders of many prominent Muslim organizations like Ulema Council, All India Milli Council, Aman Committee, Jamat-e-Islami, Jamiat-e-Ahle-Hadis

and Jamaat-Ul-Ulema-e-Hind also attended the said meeting and addressed the gathering.

The Movement for Peace and Justice also carried out a campaign to educate the Muslims about the recommendations of the Sachar Committee especially about the discrimination the Muslim community was subjected to in the past which had led to the extreme backwardness of the Muslims in the country and their under representation in the central and state services. A meeting of Imams held under the auspices of the "Movement for Peace and Justice" at Haj House, Mumbai on 5th March 2007 had also decided to make use of the services of Imams in educating the Muslim masses about the recommendations of the Sachar Committee through their Friday sermons. The Movement for Peace and Justice had also conducted a signature campaign through out the country demanding the total and early implementation of the recommendations of the Sachar Committee and a memorandum listing their demands along with the signatures collected was later forwarded to the Prime Minister.

In another significant development on December 19, 2006, a group of Muslim MPs, cutting across party lines had handed over a demand list to HRD Minister, Arjun Singh. The demand list included separate IITs and IIMs for the Muslims, five thousand schools and two lakh scholarships for Muslims especially for higher education and also opening of four more campuses each of Aligarh Muslim University and Maulana Azad National Urdu University across the country. They also sought 2000 Kendriya Vidyalayas exclusively for the Muslim students, 1000 for girls and another 1000 for boys. They further demanded the establishment of 3000 residential schools for Muslim girls.

The leftist parties asked the government to allocate 15% of total resources on development programmes for minorities, particularly the Muslims. The leftists also wanted a refashioning of the lending policy of banks for allowing 15% of disbursement of funds to Muslims despite objection from bank managements.

There was also panic reaction from the UPA leaders who started announcing various schemes and steps meant for the upliftment of

the Muslim community. The Centre also started preparing religion-based demographic statistics for the smooth execution of minority welfare schemes. Accordingly, the minority statistics from the latest census figures have been used to identify areas with more than 25% of Muslims to ensure greater flow of funds to such areas for upliftment of the minorities. In the union budget presented for the year 2007-08 such provisions were made for the first time in independent India. The Planning Commission had given approval for a special grant of Rs. 1000 crore for various welfare schemes meant for the Muslims. The Planning Commission had also asked the ministries and state governments to allocate 15% of Rs.200,000 crore funds allocated for next financial year for the upliftment of the Muslims. This was in addition to Rs.1000 special funds earmarked for them.

The Department Of Personnel and Training in a 3-page office memo issued on 8th January 2007 had instructed all the heads of departments, public sector banks, financial institutions, Quasi government organisations and all appointing authorities to scrupulously observe guidelines to make selection panel more representative. The departments were asked to submit half-yearly and annual reports beginning from March 2007, detailing number of vacancies at all levels i.e. Group A, B, C and D and the number of minority hands hired.

On December 9, 2006, while addressing a meeting of National Development Council (NDC), the Prime Minister had said that the minorities particularly the Muslims should be empowered to share equitably the fruits of development and they should have the first claim on national resources.

The Finance Ministry on 09.01.2007 had issued a directive to all banks asking them to set aside 15% of priority lending in all categories for minority communities, despite the fact that the religion of borrowers has never been factored in while giving loans.

The government has approved a central scheme entailing an expenditure of Rs.1868.50 crore to provide pre-metric scholarship to 25 lakh students from minority communities for pursuing education in government and private institutions. This scheme is to be launched from 2008-09 fiscal year.

The budgetary allocation for welfare schemes for the minorities in the XI th. Five-Year Plan (2007-12) has been hiked to Rs.7000 crore and annual allocation to the Ministry of Minority Affairs for the year 2008-09 has been suo moto raised by the Planning Commission to Rs.1400 crore from Rs.500 crore, though the ministry had sought an annual allocation of Rs.1100 crore only.

The central government has already identified 90 districts in the country as minority-concentrated for special development plans. Strangely however the known Muslim majority districts in Uttar Pradesh, Assam, J&K, West Bengal and Kerala are not included in this select-90 list. The Ministry of Minority Affairs has flagged off a scheme worth Rs.3780 crore for 90 minority-concentrated districts and each of this district is to get over 40 crore to improve the socio-economic indices of these districts to the level of national average during the XI th. Plan period.

The government has also accepted the proposal of the Standing Committee of National Minorities Committee for Minorities Education that the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) and Madrassas should issue a joint pass certificate to students clearing middle level of schooling from the Muslim religious school and the Aalim and Fazil degrees issued by these schools be recognised by all Indian universities.

A Critical Evaluation of Sachar Committee Report

A closer scrutiny of the Sachar Committee Report on the status of Muslims in India reveals that the report contains a lot of falsehood and half-truths.

The report says that Muslims are placed even lower than SC/STs on many Human Resources indicators like health and education which is quite incorrect. The SC/STS and Dalits are extremely marginalised sections of people who have been target of oppression and exploitation for thousands of years. They can never be compared with Muslims whose dynasties had ruled over large part of India for more than 700 years and had converted tens of thousand of local people to Islam. They controlled and dominated the social order and occupied important positions of power until the advent of the British rule. Their

economic progress may have slowed down to certain extent because of their obscurantist life style and preference for Madrassa education. But still they have made a impressive mark in almost all spheres of life as can be seen from the fact that they have significant presence among the top lawyers, doctors, engineers, rich industrialists, transporters, artists, sports persons, journalists and those associated with the film industry in the country unlike the members of SC/ST communities.

It is alleged that Muslims have lower access to education and they are not given equal opportunities. It is a blatant lie. They have all the opportunities for better education and employment prospects. However, guided and patronised by Mullahs and Moulavis they have an aversion to modern education and many of them prefer to send their children to madrassas for education which make them incompetent to get through competitive examinations for higher education or to get plum jobs. This aversion for education is seen among the Muslims even in a developed country like the United Kingdom. According to official statistics released this year, around 33% of British Muslims of working age have no qualifications at all,which is the highest proportion of under-achievement in education for any religious group in the country. A group of theologians and educationists in the U.K. have reportedly started a series of discussions and debates to chalk out necessary measures to reverse this trend.(The Hindu,Dated 3d April,2008)

According to the Sachar Committee report, Muslims have disproportionately high representation when it comes to being in prison and in many states their representation in prison is twice or thrice as much as their percentage of population. It is an unfortunate and unpleasant fact that Muslims constitute an unusually high percentage of criminals, under trials and prisoners in the country. But the inference that various state governments conspired to frame more criminal charges against Muslims with the objective of painting Muslims as a criminal community is highly inappropriate and irresponsible. The community leaders should make an introspection to find out as to why Muslim youths take to crime in such a large numbers and take corrective measures to reverse this trend. The argument that illiteracy and unemployment compel them to choose a career path in crime is not

valid as in that case there should me much more criminals from Dalits, Adivasis and other marginalised sections of people who are placed much below the Muslims in the socio-economic status. In fact the phenomenon of Muslims constituting a disproportionately high percentage of prisoners in jails is not something confined to India alone. In 2002, the New York Post had published an article written by Daniel Pipes and Lars Hedegaard about the growing immigrant problem in Denmark. The report had pointed out that "Muslims are only 4% of Denmark's 5.4 million people but make up a majority of the country's convicted rapists, an especially combustible issue given that practically all the female victims are non-Muslim. Similar, if lessor, disproportions are found in other crimes."

The report indirectly encourages Madrassa education by suggesting that there should be a mechanism to link up the Madrassas with the Higher Secondary School Board so that the Madrassa students wanting to shift to regular mainstream schools can do so after passing out from Madrassas and also by recommending that the degrees from Madrassas should be recognised for eligibility to appear for competitive examinations like civil services, banks and defense service examinations. This is the most foolish and dangerous recommendation of the Sachar Committee. The report instead of pointing out the inadequacy of Madrassa education and motivating the Muslims to send their children to regular schools, encourages Madrassa education and thereby condemns the Muslim children to be in state of perpetual mediocrity.

The Madrassa is an educational institution of Muslims offering study of Islamic subjects like Quran and Hadith (sayings of the prophet) and Islamic Jurisprudence. The Madrassas strictly follow an obsolete and outdated curriculum which is quite different from the mainstream syllabus. The Madrassa curriculum blissfully ignores the importance of modern education and the changes brought about by the computer and IT revolution. There are no proper library and laboratory facilities in Madrassas. The clerics who run the Madrassa generally frown upon the idea of students taking part in extra curricular activities. The Madrassas do not exactly train the students to become Islamic terrorists. But over emphasis in the Madrassa curriculum about the superiority of Islam tends to create a feeling of intolerance among the Madrassa

students towards other religions and make them susceptible to get easily influenced by the lure of Jihadi philosophy.

The report also stresses the need for reforms in Madrassa education with financial aid from the Centre and introduction of subjects taught in regular schools. This is probably the only recommendation in the report which could be termed as logical and appropriate. However, the Muslim clerics and leaders in general are resisting such a move, dubbing it as an attempt by the government to bring Madrassas under the government control. Any affirmative action for social and economic upliftment of Muslims has to come from Muslims themselves for which the Madarssas have to be first freed from the vice-like grip of the Mullahs and Moulavis.

The committee's finding that the growth of Muslim population has slowed down is also misleading as it is far below the fall in the rate of growth of population among the other communities.

There is some truth in the reported low percentage of Muslims in the government service and security agencies including the armed forces. These are various factors responsible for this situation. Modern education has never been a priority area for the Muslim community who preferred to send their children to Madrassas, which has naturally adversely affected their employment opportunities. The Muslim community's inclination to engage themselves in traditional business / occupation like weaving, carpentry, smithery, fishing, agriculture, brass-ware etc. also contributed to their lower employment rate in government services. It is also true that their percentage is still lower in armed forces. However, it is pertinent to note that joining the armed forces has never been a preferred career option for substantial section of Muslims with PAN-Islamic feelings because of the hostilities between India and Pakistan and this factor could also have contributed to their poor representation in the armed forces.

The lower percentage of Muslims in government service is not an indicator of their economic backwardness and discrimination. For instance, the Muslims constitute about 24.5% of population in Kerala whereas their share in government jobs is only 9.85%. If we go by the Sachar Committee's logic this low percentage of Muslims

in government service in Kerala is due to discrimination against the Muslims. But consider these facts. The Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) is a very powerful political force in Kerala. The IUML was in power in Kerala for about 30 years either in alliance with the Left Democratic Front led by the CPM or the United Democratic Front led by the Congress. The leaders of IUML and also Muslim leaders from other political parties had good representation in almost all ministries in Kerala in the past and they had held many important portfolios. How the two political fronts in Kerala had gone out of the way to please the IUML by creating government jobs exclusively for the Muslims like the creation of thousands of posts of Arabic teachers in government schools, etc. is recorded history. Even then if their percentage in government jobs in the state is comparatively low, can any conclusion be drawn that it is due to the discrimination against the Muslims. Even the Muslims in Kerala would not admit that they are economically most backward or they did not have equal opportunities to attain economic progress. According to a recent survey conducted by the Kerala Shastra Sahitya Parishad, a pro-leftist organisation of Kerala, which was widely reported in the press, in terms of economic prosperity and land held in possession, the Hindus in Kerala are lagging behind both the Muslims and Christians. However, in the field of education and employment both the Christians and Hindus are marginally ahead of the Muslims.

The CPM-led leftist government in West Bengal which has been in power for about last 30 years is considered as a Muslim-friendly government. However, according to the Sachar Committee Report, the Muslim percentage in government service in West Bengal is abysmally low at 2.1%. In contrast the Muslim percentage in government service is 5.4% in Gujarat where an allegedly anti-Muslim Govt. is in power. Similarly in respect of state public sector undertakings in West Bengal, the employment of Muslims in higher and lower position is 1.2% and 6.3% respectively, whereas in Gujarat it is 6.3% and 16% respectively. The report also says that the proportion of Muslims living below the poverty line is 36% in West Bengal, whereas it is 13% in Gujarat which is well below even the state average of 20%. The better performance of Muslims in Gujarat as against West Bengal where there is a Muslim-friendly leftist government in power clearly negates the theory of discrimination against the Muslims.

According to the latest data released by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) for the year 2004-05 released on March 30, 2007 and published in all national newspapers, there is not much difference in the general backwardness of Hindus and Muslims in the country except in the field of education.

A recent data analysis report presented by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) on its first ever national survey of Household Income and Expenditure (2004-05) has ridiculed the half-baked findings and conclusions on the economic state of religious communities in India and has asserted that at the national level, the Hindus and Muslims are closer than the general perception as far as economic parameters like household income, expenditure, savings and even ownership of selected consumer goods are concerned. As per the NCAER report, while the Hindus and Muslims at National level run neck to neck on average annual household income, the Sikhs, Christians and other communities are much better placed.

As per the 2001 census, the national average rate of literacy is 64.8%. The literacy percentage among the Hindus is 65.1% which is only 0.3% higher than the national average. The percentage among the Muslims is 59.1% which is lower than the national average by 5.7%. The rate of literacy for Christians, Buddhists and Sikhs is 80.3%, 71.7% and 69.4% respectively which is higher than the national average. This shows that the non-Muslim minorities have done much better than the Hindus in the educational sphere and the Muslim backwardness in this sphere is not that alarming as it was made out to be.

It is a fact the Muslims suffer from certain degree of social and economic backwardness as compared to Hindus and other minority communities like Sikhs and Christians. However the statistics and instances quoted above clearly show that they are only marginally more backward than other communities and that all the allegations about discrimination and lack of equal opportunities for Muslims are baseless. Rajindar Sachar who headed the Sachar Committee has obviously used selective indicators and parameters to exaggerate the extent of Muslim backwardness and deprivation and submitted a report which is blatantly biased and deliberately aimed to mislead the Muslim

masses that anti-Muslim bias and discrimination was mainly responsible for the general backwardness of the Muslim community. It has also been found that Rajindar Sachar had always acted against the security interests of the country and was involved in many shady activities in the past. Some of the specific instances of his controversial and shady activities are furnished as under:

Sachar along with his naxalite friends and other human rights activists had always opposed all stringent laws like the POTA, TADA, etc. enacted by the Parliament to tackle the menace of terrorism, insurgency and naxal violence. Participating in a convention organised by the Forum for Democratic Initiative (FDI) against the alleged draconian laws like POTA, TADA and Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) at New Delhi on 6.8.04, Justice Rajindar Sachar had criticised the UPA government for its failure to repeal the POTA with retrospective effect and its attempt to retain some of the POTA clauses through some other laws. Others who attended the convention included Dipankar Bhattacharya, Gen. Secretary, CPI-ML, Seram Rojesh, representative of Manipur Students' Association (pro-secessionist), New Delhi, SAR Geelani, Lecturer, Delhi University (who was involved in the Parliament attack case), Arundhati Roy, writer and Nandita Haksar, Supreme Court lawyer.

Justice Rajindar Sachar had always shown his sympathy for the cause of Kashmiri terrorists through his various press statements and articles. In a press release issued on March 27, 2002, Sachar had described the arrest of separatist leader Yasin Malik under the POTA by the J&K government in connection with a foreign exchange offence as a gross abuse of the Act and demanded his immediate release.

Speaking at a convention on the topic "Kashmir and India-Pak Friendship" organised by the 'Secular Democratic Forum' at New Delhi on 15th. August 2001 Justice Rajindar Sachar had said that restoring pre-1953 status to the J&K was the only solution to the Kashmir problem and declared his whole-hearted support to the demand for autonomy to the J&K. Dr. Hyder Hijazi, Secretary General Of J&K Liberation Front who also attended the convention had urged both India and Pakistan to grant independence to J&K to end the miseries of the Kashmiris. K. N. Ramchandran, a top CPI-ML leader, in his

speech had criticized the Government of India for the continued repression of Kashmiri people and remarked that extension of 'Disturbed Area Act' would only worsen the situation in Kashmir. Dr. Sapan Mukherjee of CPI-ML (liberation) in his speech had lambasted the Centre for taking fascist measures while dealing with the situation in J&K and called for an immediate end to the repression of Kashmiris. The convention had also passed a resolution demanding the settlement of Kashmir issue by recognising the rights of Kashmiris to decide their own future.

In an article published in 'Kashmir Times' in January 2004 Justice Rajinder Sachar had expressed his disappointment over the two-judge verdict of Supreme Court upholding the validity of Prevention Of Terrorism Act 2002 (POTA) and stuck to his position describing POTA as a draconian law unworthy of a civilized nation. In another article published in the same daily under the caption "Uneasy Times in Kashmir", Sachar had shown his sympathy for the cause of Kashmiri Militants.

Rajindar Sachar had participated in the 3rd Vinod Mishra Memorial meeting organised by the Delhi State Committee of the CPI-ML on 18th. December 2001. Besides Sachar, the meeting was also addressed by Praful Bidwai, Journalist, Dipankar Bhattacharya, Gen Secretary, CPM-ML and Comrade Swadesh Bhattacharya.

Eleven POTA prisoners of Tamil Nadu consisting of terrorists, anti-national elements and hard core criminals had resorted to an indefinite hunger strike from 26.08.2004 demanding abolition of POTA and withdrawal of all cases registered under POTA, which was called off on 15.09.2004. 12 human rights activists led by Sachar had issued a press note expressing solidarity with the agitating prisoners and condemning the Govt. of Tamil Nadu for invoking the POTA against the prisoners.

In January 2000, Rajindar Sachar had strongly condemned the arrest of Th. Muiva, General Secretary of NSCN-IM (the most dominant Naga insurgent outfit) by the Thailand Police and had sought the intervention of the Government of India for his immediate release. He later flew all the way to Bangkok to express his solidarity with the

arrested Naga leader. Participating in a symposium organised by 'Friends of Nagas', a front organisation of NSCN-IM at Bangkok, Rajindar Sachar and other human rights activists like Surendra Mohan, Nandita Haksar and Swami Agvinesh and NSCN-IM leaders like K.S.Paul Leo, S. Kho John and Akum Lonchari had passed a resolution demanding the immediate release of Th. Muiva. It may be noted that Th. Muiva was arrested by Thailand police on 19.01.2000 while he was travelling from Karachi to Bangkok on a fake South Korean passport. He was however released on bail only to be arrested again on 30th. January while trying to fly to Bonn via Amsterdam from Hatyai Airport in South Thailand.

While speaking to North-East Vigil, a fortnightly of North-East region on 05.08.2000, Isac Chishi Sushu, Chairman of NSCN-IM had praised Indian intellectuals like Rajindar Sachar, Surendra Mohan (former MP), Swami Agvinesh (Bonded Labour Liberation Front) and Nandita Haskar (Advocate Supreme Court) for their support to the cause of Nagas' struggle.

In May 2007 when Arun Pareria, a resident of Mumbai and three other hard-core CPI (Maoist) activists were arrested by the Police, Rajindar Sachar along with writer Arundhati Roy had convened a press conference in Delhi to protest against the arrest of the said four Maoist activists alleging that they were falsely implicated in the case, despite the fact the police had recovered weapons and explosives and many incriminating documents from them. Earlier Justice Rajindar Sachar had also condemned the arrest of Dr. Binayak Sen of Chattisgarh, Vice President, PUCL, by the Chattisgarh Poilice for his links with Maoist activists.

The instances quoted above clearly show Rajinder Sachar's sympathy for the Muslim militants, Maoists and separatist movements in the country and exposes his anti-national credentials.

Comments

There is a very big lobby of eminent personalities in India who are indulging in anti-national activities at the behest of some external agencies. This lobby consists of some eminent lawyers, retired

judges, writers, social activists, journalists, human right activists, retired defense personnel, bureaucrats and some church activists. These activists who have a common agenda are working under difference banners like human rights, environmentalists, social action and Christian action groups. All these groups have often shown their sympathy and support for various militant and insurgent outfits and naxalite groups in the country as they do not believe in the concept of India as a nation state.

Rajindar Sachar who is a close associate of other pro-naxalite judge activists like Hosbet Suresh, S. M. Daud, P. B. Sawant, Kolse Patil is also an active member of the said lobby. Sachar's findings and observations about Muslim community's backwardness and alleged bias and discrimination against them were intended only to create a surge of anger, alienation and disaffection among the Muslim community in India. It is strongly suspected that Sachar's appointment to head the High Level Committee to study the socio-economic and educational backwardness of the Muslims was part of big conspiracy hatched by some militant NGO and human rights activists and some anti-national elements within the government with the aim of creating disaffection and promoting militancy among the Muslims in the country and also to tarnish India's image as a secular country.

The extent of damage the Sachar Committee Report has done to the reputation and secular credentials of the country can be gauged from an article that appeared in the weekend edition of London's prestigious news daily 'Financial Times Weekend' dated March 31/ April 1, 2007 under the headline "A creed of loathe thy neighbour". Quoting extensively from Sachar Committee report, the article says that India's Muslims constantly battling perceptions that they are 'anti-national', 'unpatriotic' and 'belong to Pakistan' are being pushed into ghettos. Markers of their identity such as burkah, the purdah, the beard and topi invite ridicule and harassment. Bearded men find that they are routinely picked up for interrogation and hijab-wearing women struggle to find jobs. Most Muslims are unable to buy or rent property in the area of their choice. Their children are rejected from good schools and this has contributed to sharp growth in the number of Madrassas. Highlighting the atrocities and discrimination against Muslims in various fields, the article further hints that India deserved to be a target

of Islamic terrorists. If Sachar Committee report had provoked publication of an article like this in a prestigious newspaper in a non-Muslim country which is engaged in a war against Islamic terrorism, then what could be the reaction it has generated among the Muslims in India and Muslim masses and intellectuals in Muslim countries. A true picture about the harm done to the country by the Sachar Committee report was seen during the coverage of November 26 terror attacks in Mumbai by the international media. A substantial section of the media in the Western and European countries while commenting on the event extensively quoted from the Sachar Committee report to justify the attacks as a sort of retaliation for the ill-treatment of Muslims in India.

The Sachar committee has done a great disservice to the country by submitting a distorted and misleading report prepared with manipulated and selective data and malicious intentions. There are vast sections of poor and backward people among both Hindu and Muslim communities and urgent necessary steps need to be taken to improve their lot. However it will be highly inappropriate and extremely dangerous to blindly implement the Muslim specific recommendations of the Sachar Committee.

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Chapter-IV

Dark Side of The Union Budget For 2008-2009

The union budget for 2008-09 presented by Finance Minister P.Chidambaram may have given some sops to certain sections of people. But from the overall interests of the country it was totally disappointing and from the country's security point of view it was a terrible let down. GDP percentage-wise we had the maximum budget allocation for defence in the year 1987 with an all time high allocation of 3.35% of GDP. Since then there has been a steady decline in the budget allocation for defence with the last year's (2007-08) budget showing an allocation of just over 2% of the GDP for defence expenditure. This year the finance minister has allocated Rs.1,05,600 crore for defence which in comparison to previous year's allocation of Rs.96000 crore shows a 10% hike. But in actual terms the allocation for defence this year has come down to less than 2% of the GDP, to be precise to 1.98% of GDP, for the first time since 1962. What has provoked this declining trend in allocation for defence expenditure? Are we not facing any security threats now? In fact no other country in the world faces so much security threat, both internal and external,as we in India face today. Both Pakistan and China, our estranged neighbours, spend more than 4% of their GDP on defence. China has started flexing its muscles again. It is claiming the entire state of Arunachal Pradesh as its own territory and there had been a number of incursions into our territory by the Chinese army in the recent past. In the year 2007 alone there were 142 such incursions into our territory. An IAS officer hailing

from Arunachal Pradesh was recently denied visa by China on the ground that since Arunachal Pradesh is a part of China, he did not require a visa to visit China. This stand of China had led to a diplomatic raw between the two countries which was later settled with China ultimately agreeing to issue a visa to the concerned officer. This incident shows the seriousness of our border dispute with China and the dangers of any complacency on our part in our defence preparedness. Senior military officers and defence analysts have since long been demanding a minimum budget allocation of 3% of the GDP for defence. The Parliamentary Committee on Defence had also recently recommended that there should be a permanent provision in the annual budget for allocation of at least 3% of the GDP for defence expenditure. Under the circumstances the fact that India's defence allocation for 2008-09 has fallen below 2% of the GDP for the first time since 1962 is a matter of grave concern. Another area of concern is the fact that we have not been able to utilise even the alloted funds for the defence sector because of bureaucratic delays and differences and blame game by civil and defence officials over procurement of new weapon systems,equipments,spare parts,etc. A sum of Rs.4217/- crore was reportedly returned to the ministry from last year's allocation because of the inability of the concerned authorities in finalising certain defence deals.

There has also been a significant reduction in the budget allocation for the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) this year. The budget allocation for DAE this year is Rs.4797 crore which is Rs.1333 crore less than the allocation made for the DAE in the last year's budget. Reportedly the allocations have been cut for the Nuclear Fuel Complex, Heavy Water Board, Board for Radiation & Isotope Technology and the thorium plant. Budgetary support for public sector enterprises like Nuclear Power Corporation and Bhartiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam too has been slashed. Funds for several premier research institutions have also been reduced. Is it not strange that when the government is projecting nuclear power as the answer to our future energy needs, there should be such drastic reduction in the budget allocation for the DAE instead of a substantial increase for the same?

While our rulers are reluctant to allocate adequate funds for the defence sector, they are very liberal in waisting money on

unproductive and useless schemes and projects. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) is one such project involving wasteful expenditure. It was introduced in 200 districts in the country in 2006.In 2007 it was extended to another 130 districts in the country. From April this year onwards, it has been extended to all the districts in the country. The first draft performance audit report of the CAG on the NREGS scheme was released in January 2008. According to this report the Employment Guaranty Scheme was a colossal flop as the scheme meant to create 100 days of employment for one member of each of the below poverty-line families in the rural areas, actually generated on an average only 18 days of employment despite the fact that the full amount allocated for the scheme was spent. As expected there were many irregularities in the implementation of this scheme. Inquiries conducted in this regard showed that in some cases the muster rolls maintained for workers engaged under this scheme contained names of non-existent or dead persons. In many places the payment to workers was shown for work which was never undertaken. After the release of the CAG report about the failure of the scheme many economic experts and analysts had demanded the total abolition of this scheme. It was at this stage some influential NGO activists stepped into the fray strongly supporting this scheme and demanding the extension of the scheme to all the districts in the country. They argued that the EGS would be an effective tool for poverty alleviation in the rural areas if the necessary corrective measures are taken to eradicate the anomalies at the implementation stage of the scheme. They ensured the support of Rahul Gandhi for not only for the continuance of the scheme but for its extension to all the districts in the country. Rahul Gandhi personally had taken up the matter with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh who readily agreed to extend the scheme to all the districts in the country from April 1, 2008. In the union budget for 2008-09, originally there was an allocation of Rs.16000 crore for the implementation of the NREGS scheme. However, succumbing to the pressures from the powerful NGO lobby, the Centre has subsequently made available an additional amount of Rs.10500 crore for this scheme taking the total allocation for this scheme to a whopping Rs.26500 crore for this fiscal year alone. The CAG's performance audit report on the NREGS scheme which pointed out "significant deficiencies"in the implementation of the scheme was

presented in Parliament on 21st.November,2008. It has also been reported that though more than three years have passed since the UPA government kicked off its flagship project of largest ever job guarantee programme for the rural poor, there are still no rules framed for its proper implementation. In the absence of proper rules, there is no meaningful mechanism to address the grievances and complaints of the poor and illiterate rural masses over the implementation of the scheme nor there is any legal route to verify as to whether the huge amounts of money spent under this scheme have actually reached the intended beneficiaries.

The loan-waiver scheme for the farmers announced by the Finance Minister is another Himalayan blunder. It will benefit mostly the rich farmers. This waiver originally amounting to about Rs. 60000 crore was announced as a populist measure to please the farming community and to create a vote-bank among them. But it was done without any proper study about the problems of the farmers or about the real reasons for the increasing incidents of suicide by the farmers. According to one survey report, in about 40% of the cases the loans are taken from the money lenders. It is the poorest section of farmers who are forced to approach the money lenders for loans. This is because of the extra-cautious approach of the bank officials who are reluctant to grant loans to the poor farmers as they do not want to add on to the non-performing assets of the banks. If the prospects of loan recovery are not very certain, the banks will tactfully make the procedure so cumbersome that the poor and harassed farmers would voluntarily opt to go to the money lenders. While it is necessary to address the genuine grievances of the farmers, resorting to unethical and undesirable solutions like the loan-waiver scheme would set a bad precedent for the country. The very concept of loan waiver is highly regressive and objectionable. It makes the honest farmers who have paid back their loans look like fools while the dishonest ones are rewarded.

Concerned by the growing incidents of farmers' suicide in Vidharba region in Maharashtra Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had visited the area in 2007and had announced a special package of Rs.3000/- crore for the benefit of the farmers in the region. But this did not stop the farmers' suicide in Vidharba region. The statistics in this regard in fact showed an increase in the suicide rate of farmers

from the region since the announcement of the special package by the prime minister. The loan-waiver scheme for farmers announced by the Finance Minister as a panacea for all the problems of the farmers has also not helped to curb the spate of suicide by farmers. It has been reported that there had been more than 500 incidents of farmers' suicide in Vidharba region (Maharashtra) alone after the announcement of the loan-waiver scheme. This further confirms that the UPA government had not done its homework properly before announcing the ill-conceived loan-waiver scheme. This scheme will not serve the desired purpose of resolving the farmers' problems. But it will certainly have a negative impact on the banking sector and the country's economy. And still some of the UPA leaders including Rahul Gandhi successfully campaigned for expanding the scope of this scheme by raising the ceiling for eligibility to include a wider section of farmers under this scheme and put pressure to hike up the budget allocation in this regard to Rs.71680 crore. The question naturally arises as to why our own leaders are acting against the interests of the country. There is a general impression that welfare schemes like NREGS and loan-waiver scheme are sought to be introduced in the country as part of the vote-bank politics of the ruling regime. But it is only partly true. There are strong grounds to suspect that there is also a much more sinister motive behind the diversion of huge funds for unproductive schemes like the loan-waiver and the NREGS. As per this sinister design, these schemes are also meant to create a resource crunch so as to prevent allocation of adequate funds for certain important sectors like defence, infrastructural development, nuclear and space programmes. Yes, it is a fact that there are some elements within the UPA government who want to see that our economic progress is stalled and our military might is weakened. The proposals for the loan-waiver scheme and NREGS have reportedly not come from Finance Minister P.Chidambaram or Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. The proposals for these schemes have come from some NGO leaders who are acting as unofficial special advisers to the UPA ministry. Two of them were prominent members of the National Advisory Council which has now been dissolved. They belong to the same NGO lobby which has been trying to block all our major development projects by creating legal and physical hurdles and patronising all other anti-national movements in the country.

Chapter-V

Sorry State of India's Defence Preparedness

The Sino-Indian relations which were showing signs of improvements since the last two decades have again taken a turn for the worst lately owing to the Chinese perception about the UPA government's suspected role in encouraging militant activities of the Tibetan refugees in India directed against the alleged oppressive Chinese rule in Tibet, at the behest of the United States of America. China has not taken lightly the reluctance of the Indian authorities in taking stern action against the Tibetan refugees in India and their supporters who had threatened to disrupt the Olympic torch relay in India and also their attempt to storm the Chinese embassy in New Delhi. More than 100 Tibetan exiles in India had also taken out a march to Tibet in March 2008 to protest against the Chinese rule in Tibet. The marchers left Dharmasala on 10th. March coinciding with the 49th. anniversary of the Dalai Lama's escape from Tibet after a failed uprising. However they were promptly stopped by the Indian authorities on the same day. The Chinese leaders believe that the violent demonstrations carried out by the Tibetan refugees and their supporters in Western and European countries during the recent Olympic torch relay prior to the Olympic games was the result of a deep-rooted conspiracy involving the US and its allies and the India-based Tibetan leader, the Dalai Lama, intended to tarnish the image of China and steal some of its thunder and glory in organising the Olympics meet in a spectacular manner.

India's problems with China started ever since the Government of India headed by late Jawaharlal Nehru decided to give asylum to the Dalai Lama and his supporters who had fled from Tibet in 1959 after a failed uprising against the Chinese rule in Tibet. The subsequent worsening of the border dispute between the two countries led to the Sino-India conflict in 1962. China is very sensitive to any criticism against its alleged oppressive rule and human rights violations in Tibet and it does not hesitate to show its anger and displeasure to any country which shows any kind of support and sympathy to any Tibetan leader opposed to the Chinese rule in Tibet. Viewed from this perspective, the present toughening stand of China on the border dispute with India is a natural turn of event as it coincides with the increased militancy on the part of Tibetan refugees in India. External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee during his recent visit to a 400-year old monastery in Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh on 8th. November,2008 had referred to China's claim on Arunachal Pradesh and had stated that China was fully aware that Arunachal Pradesh is an integral part of India. China had earlier claimed Tawang pointing out that it is the birth place of the sixth Dalai Lama. Later it changed its stance to claim the whole of Arunachal Pradesh as its territory. Addressing a press conference on November 11, 2008 a Chinese foreign ministry spokesman had challenged Pranab Mukherjee's statement on Arunachal Pradesh and remarked that the Indian stance on the issue was not based on historical facts. China has now become more assertive in claiming the entire state of Arunachal Pradesh as its own territory and there had been a number of incursions into our territory by the Chinese army in the recent past. In the year 2007 alone there had been 142 such incursions into our territory. China is also claiming a small part of land called the 'finger area' located at the southern tip of Sikkim as its territory despite the fact that it has never been a disputed territory in the past. In the Ladak region also there had been frequent incursions into our territory and in this region alone there were 12 instances of incursions by the Chinese army during the first six months of 2008.

China,which already has much better infrastructural facilities on its side of the border has also constructed a number of new airfields

close to the border with India. According to the Air force authorities, the Chabua air-base in Assam located at about 170 kms from the border is now surrounded by 14 airfields on the Chinese side. Though not all of them are in actual use, they can be made operational within a week according to a reported statement by the Commanding Officer of the Chabua air-base. To cope up with the emerging threats from across the border, the Indian authorities have also started taking necessary counter measures like upgrading all our IAF bases in the region and deployment of more fighter squadrons, etc.and also building up better infrastructural facilities on our side of the border. However, irked by such counter measures by India and also suspecting India's connivance behind the new-found belligerence on the part of the Tibetan refugees in their campaign for Tibetan independence, the Chinese military establishment has now launched a virulent attack on India through its various journals and portals dubbing India's military build-up and exercises as a provocative action directed against an imaginary enemy. A Chinese defence journal brought out by the China Institute of International Strategic Studies recently carried an article titled "A Warning to the Indian Government : Don't Be Evil!" which commenting upon the recent military exercises and repositioning of Indian troops in north Bengal accused India of following the same old path of confrontation as it did in 1962. The article asked India not to "respond to kindness with treachery" and warned that in case of a confrontation "the PLA will not pull back 30 kms as it did the last time".The article further says that India is a very arrogant country and so are its people. Since this article and other such commentaries have appeared in official journals, they must be considered as an expression of official Chinese line of thinking.

In the light of such provocations from China and the continued proxy war being waged against India by Pakistan, any patriotic citizen of this country will think that the Government of India may have taken all necessary steps to ward off all external threats to the territorial integrity of this country. But what exactly is the actual position of our defence preparedness and what is the state of the morale of our defence personnel? The following facts will give some idea about the shocking and sorry state of our defence preparedness.

The primacy of air power in winning wars is a well-established fact. However the IAF reportedly remains seriously handicapped because of the fighter shortage. The IAF presently is far short of even its sanctioned strength of 39.5 fighter squadrons. According to IAF's own assessment it needs 44 squadrons to meet the possible contingency of a full-fledged conflict with Pakistan. Where as, it just has about 30 squadrons now with many more older MIG variants lined up for progressive retirement. It is reported that the IAF will take at least ten years even to achieve its sanctioned strength. The failure of the successive governments to formulate long-term integrated defence plans to build up country's defence capabilities has led to this tragic situation. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on defence in a report submitted in April, 2008 has warned that the depleted air force is a serious risk to national security and has stressed the imperative need to revise acquisition targets to meet the authorised strength in the shortest possible time-frame. Former IAF chief, Air Chief Marshal S.P.Tyagi had warned the UPA government that unless immediate remedial steps are taken, the nation for the first time in its history will lose the conventional military edge over Pakistan.

There has been a six-year delay in the government's hunt for 126 new multi-role combat aircraft under a gigantic project estimated to cost over $10 billion (about 42000 crore). Even if the contract is signed immediately the first lot of these fighters could be delivered only by 2012.

The GOI had recently signed a contract for the purchase of six Hercules planes for our defence forces with the American manufacturer Lockheed Martin for an amount of $1.05 billion. In sharp contrast ,Canada paid just $1.4 billion for 17 of the same aircraft. It means that while India pays Rs.675 crore per aircraft,Canada pays only Rs.330 crore for the same aircraft. The experts in the field who evaluated the aircraft and negotiated the deal cannot be unaware of the over-pricing of this air-craft. Obviously the defence experts, bureaucrats and politicians joined together in sacrificing the country's security interests and looting the public money through a shady deal and sharing the booty. Instead of blacklisting the firm involved in this deal we continue to negotiate with the firm Lockheed Martin to sign more lucrative contracts.

The Indian army has had no fresh induction of field artillery guns since the Bofors contract under which 410 field howitzers were bought in 1986. The involvement of brokers in defence deals and payment of commission to them, etc. are all very common in all international defence deals. Just because there was a political controversy over the commission payment in Bofors deal, was it advisable on the part of our rulers to freeze all artillery gun deals for the last 22 years at the cost of our security needs? After a long gap of 22 years India has now started a fresh acquisition procedure by floating global tenders for the purchase of three categories of artillery guns. But what about the harm already done to our defence preparedness by freezing of all fresh procurement of field artillery guns for all these years.

India, which fancies itself as an emerging super power, presently does not have a single aircraft carrier to guard and protect its maritime interests. The country's solitary aircraft carrier,INS Viraat, is presently undergoing a life-extension refit work and will remain docked until at least July,2009. The 28000-tonne INS Viraat is already 50 years old. After the refit and repair work, it will hopefully run for another five years. Meanwhile the government's inability to take timely decisions has caused a delay of several years in launching our indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC) project at the Cochin Shipyard. The 37500-tonne IAC will not be ready for sail before 2014. The Gorshkov deal with Russia is yet to be resolved. The delivery of this aircraft carrier, to be called INS Vikramaditya in Indian service, has been pushed back to 2012, although this warship was earlier supposed to join the Indian fleet by August,2008. The Russians who signed the original contract deal in January, 2004 for $1.5 billion are now demanding another two billion dollars for this ship. Even if the issue is sorted out, it will not be delivered before 2012. According to naval authorities, India needs three aircraft carriers to protect its growing strategic interests. A few years back we had two aircraft carriers and presently we do not have a single operational aircraft carrier, as the INS Viraat, the only aircraft carrier available with us, is undergoing an year-long refit and repair work. This potentially dangerous situation has arisen because of the failure of successive governments in undertaking long-time defence planning to build up military capabilities in tune with our geostrategic needs and objectives.

India's Rs.18798-crore Scorpene submarine deal with France has also reportedly run into rough weather due to delay in technology transfer. The Mumbai-based Mazagaon Docks Limited is to build six Scorpene submarines under this contract deal signed in October,2005. The DCNS, the French firm that has developed the Scorpene, had assured the Indian Navy earlier this year that all issues of technology transfer had been taken care of and the first of the six submarines would roll out by 2012 as per the original deadline. The remaining five are scheduled to follow at a rate of one per year. However it has now been reported that the project has been delayed by an year. In March,2003, the Defence Acquisition Council had said that the force level of the navy should not dip below 142 ships and submarines. But the force level figure presently stands at 129. Understandably there is growing concern among the naval top brass over the depleting war-waging potential of the Indian Navy.

India purchased an amphibious transport warship USS Trenton from the US for $50.63 million in 2006. This 37-year old ship was rechristened as INS Jalashwa by the Indian Navy. The CAG report tabled in Parliament in March,2008 however rapped the UPA government for buying the ageing ship in a hasty manner without proper physical verification and technical evaluation of its sea-worthiness. It noted that the acquisition decision and inking of the contract took place the same day showing the haste in purchasing the ship.The CAG report holds that since the ship has already outlived most of its service life of 40 years, the decision for its acquisition did not appear prudent. The report further notes that the US navy was to decommission the 36-year old warship in 2006 after finding that nothing much could be achieved by its further modernisation. The report also questioned the military efficacy of the ship in view of the restrictions on offensive deployment and permission granted to the US to conduct an inspection and inventory of all articles transferred under the end-use monitoring clause. In February,2008, six Indian Navy sailors including an officer had died aboard this ship following a toxic gas leak. It later transpired that this class of ships had suffered from this problem and three US navy sailors had also lost their lives in a similar incident earlier. There were also media reports quoting naval sources that the naval authorities were virtually bulldozed into buying this ship by the political establishment.

A new version of Barak missiles, a medium range surface-to-air missile, was to be made for the IAF under a Rs.10000 crore project in a joint venture between the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Israeli Aerospace Industries, the makers of Barak missiles. The Cabinet Committee on Security had reportedly cleared this joint venture on July 12, 2007. But it is now reported that the government has put this massive defence project in cold storage on the pretext of an ongoing CBI inquiry into the alleged kickbacks in an earlier Barak missile defence system deal for Indian Navy signed in 2000. If cleared, this would be the biggest military joint venture of India with any country. Both the Israeli Aerospace Industries and Rafael Advanced Defence Systems Ltd. have been named in the FIR lodged by the CBI on October 9,2006. The Law Ministry has reportedly advised the MoD against dealing with the Israeli firms pointing out that it may jeopardise the ongoing CBI investigation. A final decision in this regard is to be taken by the Cabinet Committee on Security. Other key acquisitions by the army, Navy and Air Force held up as a result of the naming of the two Israeli firms in the FIR filed by the CBI include Navy's plan for inducting 250 Barak missiles for warship defence system, tenders for the purchase of 1500 active protection systems for T-72 tanks, two deals to purchase aerial radars and anti-aircraft missiles needed to improve the air defence cover and contract for four Aerostat radars for detecting and monitoring low-flying aircrafts.

There was also some uncertainty about the $1.1billion Phalcon AWACS(air borne warning and control systems) deal signed with Israeli Aerospace Industries (IAI) in March,2004. One Israeli newspaper had recently hinted about some commission payment in the deal. Reportedly the Phalcon AWACS are desperately needed by India and top IAF officials feel that the security needs of the country should not be hit by such allegations. As per the Phalcon contract, three Phalcon early-warning radars are being mounted on Russian heavy lift IL-76 military aircraft under a tripartite pact between India, Israel and Russia. The IAF was to get the first of the three Phalcons in November,2007. However there was some delay in its delivery and India got its first Phalcon only after the November 26 Mumbai terror attacks when India moved the Israeli authorities for its immediate delivery.

Senior military officials are reportedly quite happy and satisfied with all past defence acquisitions from Israel. Israel is very crucial for most of India's defence needs and it is presently the second largest weapon supplier to India. Israel has also proved to be extremely reliable. It has been reported that in 2002 when India and Pakistan were on the brink of a war, Israel had diverted some weapons and delivered the same almost overnight to fulfill the needs of the Indian Air Force. The law ministry's advice is certain to affect India's defence preparedness adversely. Commenting upon the allegations against the Israeli firms, Admiral Suresh Mehta, Chief of the Indian Navy, had said recently that there will always be such allegations in all big defence deals and had warned that if we go on blacklisting foreign firms on the basis of mere allegations of wrong doing and suspend fresh acquisition of urgently needed defence items, it is bound to have an adverse effect on the operational capabilities of our defence forces.

Our programme to build an indigenous nuclear submarine which started decades ago has been proceeding at a painfully slow pace. The talks for developing nuclear reactor for a submarine had started as far back as late sixties. The work on building the nuclear submarine, nicknamed as ATV or Advance Technology Vehicle, began almost a quarter century ago. It is now reported that the sea trials of the ATV would begin next year. Even so, its introduction into service in requisite numbers would still take a long time. According to Vice Admiral (Rtd) A.K.Singh, an experienced nuclear submariner, our country is at least 10 years behind China in this respect. In fact, India had acquired a 'Charlie-I' class nuclear submarine on lease from the Soviet Union in 1988 to give our navy first-hand experience in nuclear submarine operations and maintenance work. It was rechristened as INS Chakra on joining Indian navy. However, not only the idea of acquiring a second nuclear submarine was given up,but even the first one was abruptly returned to the Soviet Union in 1991, reportedly because of strong objection from the US against any extension of its lease. As a result, the expertise gained from operating INS Chakra was steadily lost as India did not operate any other nuclear submarine all these years. Now after a long gap of 18 years we have clinched a deal with Moscow for leasing one nuclear submarine. Reportedly, the 12000-tonne Akula-II nuclear submarine being built in Russia is expected to

join the Indian navy in the later half of 2009 and it will also be rechristened as INS Chakra. The authorities concerned should explain as to why was the nuclear submarine acquired on lease was returned to the Soviet Union abruptly without even fulfilling the purpose for which it was taken on lease. Why was there no follow up action in acquiring nuclear submarines for our Navy in all these years? Who was responsible for delaying our ATV project for almost a quarter century and thereby freezing our plan for equipping and strengthening Indian Navy with nuclear submarines?

According to British media reports, China has built a major underground nuclear submarine base at Sanya on the southern tip of Hainan island which could threaten Asian countries like India and even challenge American power in the region. The satellite images of this base obtained by Jain's Intelligence Review show that the substantial harbour built for this base could house a score of nuclear ballistic missile submarines and a host of aircraft carriers. One of the images showed China's latest 094 nuclear submarine stationed at Sanya base. According to naval experts, the 094 nuclear submarine has a range of over 7000 kms which the Chinese have modified to cover a distance of 12800 kms. India is not even making an attempt to fill up the widening strategic gap in the military might between the two countries.

India's quest for developing a light combat aircraft (LCA) started almost two decades ago. The flight trials of this aircraft have been going on for the last seven years. It is now reported that the first batch of the LCA ' Tejas' would carry only limited weaponry because of engine power limitations. The Indian Air Force has placed orders for 20 LCAs and has agreed in principle to acquire another 20. The LCA was undergoing tests fitted with the American GE-404 engine with a capacity of 80 to 85 kilo newtons (kn). On the other hand, the IAF wanted the capacity to be of 95 to 100 kn, the same as the ones powering the F-16 fighters. According to senior IAF officials, if we buy a more powerful engine, the aircraft structure will have to be completely changed and this will not be possible with the initial lot of 40 LCAs. The operational clearance for the initial lot is slated for 2010 end. Besides the engine issue, the LCA is also reportedly facing problems with the angle of attack and the landing gear of the aircraft. While the angle of attack achieved by the LCA is 17 degrees, the IAF wants it to

be 21 degrees. In order to fit a more powerful engine in the future, the government is now reportedly considering both direct import and co-development options. So, after spending about 20 years and crores of rupees on a pet project, what we get finally is a light combat aircraft of inferior quality. The question naturally arises as to why we opted for the American GE-404 engine in the first place, if it did not meet our capacity specifications.

The fate of Arjun, the main battle tank (MBT) developed by the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) decades ago is also not very different. The army had laid down its qualitative requirements for the indigenous Arjun tank in 1972. The project was cleared by the Centre in 1974. However the prototype of the new tank was publicly unveiled for field trial only in 1995. Further complicating the matter, the new tank was found to have some serious defects with its fire-controlling system, accuracy, suspension and mobility which could not be rectified so far. According to the 29th. report of the Parliament's Standing Committee on Defence submitted in both houses of Parliament on April 16, 2008, the MBT Arjun has performed very poorly in the trials carried out so far. The Indian army continues to order Russian T-90 tanks for all its current requirements. Disappointed with the failure of the Arjun project, the army sources have now made it clear that they are not going to purchase any more Arjun tanks other than the already contracted order placed about eight years ago for 124 tanks. The MBT Arjun project is thus set for an unceremonius burial in the near future. It is unbelievable that India which has successfully undertaken technologically more sophisticated and complicated projects like development of IRBMs, PSLVs, GSLVs and Chandrayaan-1 could not produce a main battle tank as per the specifications and requirements of the army even after spending 36 years and so much money and manpower. The sabotage angle cannot be ruled out in this case.

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) in its latest report tabled in Parliament on 24th. October, 2008 has blasted the government for the deplorable state of the country's air defence ground environment system (ADGES) and the dwindling strength of its underwater combat fleet. It has expressed its shock over the poor shape of the integrated network of surveillance and air defence radars, air defence control centres and air and missile bases of the IAF. As far as the submarine

fleet is concerned, India has 16 submarines compared to China's 57 attack submarines. While India does not have any nuclear-powered submarine, China has a dozen nuclear ones which presents a stark imbalance. The CAG also points out that the operational availability of Indian submarines is as low as 48% due to an ageing fleet. It means that only 7 or 8 submarines would be available to India for actual operational use which is less than a dozen that Pakistan has. Reacting to the strong indictment of the government by the CAG, Defence Minister A.K.Antony had admitted on 25th. October,2008 that there was a failure on his ministry's part in providing necessary defence equipments to the forces. He admitted that the government's inability to provide urgently required radars to the Indian Air Force on time has rendered the Indian air space vulnerable due to gaps in air defence cover.

Despite such dismal scenario, the union budget presented by Finance Minister P. Chidambaram in February this year shows that the budget allocation for defence has come down to less than 2% of the GDP for the first time since 1962. It is pertinent to note in this regard that both China and Pakistan allot more than 4% of the GDP for defence. Senior military officers and defence analysts have since long been demanding a minimum budget allocation of 3% of the GDP for defence. The Parliamentary Committee on Defence had also recently recommended that there should be a permanent provision in the annual budget for allocation of at least 3% of the GDP for defence expenditure.

With the pay packet of officials in private sector showing an unprecedented upward trend since last few years, the military career has ceased to be a preferred choice for the educated and talented youngsters in the country. Lured by the lucrative opportunities in the private sector coupled with bleak promotion prospects in the military career, many bright officers from the three services had opted for voluntary retirement in the recent past and many more are waiting in the queue seeking permission for premature retirement. The armed forces with a sanctioned strength of 46615 officers are presently facing a shortage of 11238 officers. The extent of frustration among the armed forces personnel can be gauged from the fact that 15 senior colonels of the Indian army selected for an elite training programme in 2008 refused to take up the Higher Command Course (HCC) and Higher

Defence Management Course (HDMC) which is a mandatory requirement for their promotion to the General-rank. This has never happened before. In fact getting selection for the Higher Command Course has always been considered as a matter of prestige in the past. Reportedly the reason for their decision to opt out of the HCC is that they did not want to sign a fiver-year bond for their continued service in the army in view of the more lucrative opportunities available in the private sector. Another indication of the declining interest of talented youngsters in opting for a military career is that the National Defence Academy, Pune, the prestigious institute for bright students opting for a military career, is not getting enough willing and competent candidates for its graduation course and as many as 108 seats in its 2007 batch remained vacant.

The appointment of the sixth pay commission provided the only ray of hope to the serving demoralised defence personnel. They vainly hoped that the commission will look into their grievances and propose some bold measures to boost up their morale and to make the military career more attractive. However nothing of that sort happened. The recommendations of the Commission were a total let down for the armed forces personnel. There is so much anger and frustration among the servicemen against the sixth pay commission report that for the first time in the history of Indian armed forces the three service chiefs had to make a joint representation to the defence minister apprising him of the growing resentment among the servicemen against the pay commission report and seeking immediate remedial measures to redress their grievances. The Service Chiefs had earlier repeatedly requested the government to include at least one representative of the military as a member of the commission. But this request was turned down. The government had set up a four-member committee to go into the allegation of injustice done to the armed forces by the sixth pay commission and to suggest remedial measures. All the four members of this committee were senior secretary-level IAS officers, with no representative from the armed forces. Since the undue influence wielded by the IAS class in all matters of governance is perceived as the root cause of all the woes of the servicemen, including their systematic degradation in status, there was not much hope among them in getting justice from this committee. As expected, the committee's

report was not acceptable to the service chiefs. The matter was then referred to a three-member group of senior ministers headed by External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee, which has only partially met the demands of the armed forces. The service chiefs reportedly still remain angry and frustrated. The morale of the personnel of the three services is seriously dented. Such a situation does not augur well for the country.

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Chapter-VI

A Wake Up Call

There had been many serious lapses on the part of the present government at the Centre in effectively dealing with the various security challenges faced by the country. The government's strategy of adoption of a softer approach in dealing with terrorism and engaging militant groups like ULFA, Maoists and Kashmiri separatists in peace talks has terribly misfired pushing the country into a chaotic mess of terror and violence. The November 26 terror attacks in Mumbai has given a new dimension to the Pakistan-sponsored terrorism in India. After the Mumbai terror strikes, people across the country are gripped with a growing feeling of insecurity and fear complex due to the realization that anybody could become a terror target at any time at any place in the country. While the innocent and helpless people are subjected to continued brutalities by the Islamic terrorists from across the border and their agents in India, the spineless government at the Centre shows no sign of taking any retaliatory steps to tackle this undeclared war on India thereby allowing the jihadi elements in Pakistan to achieve their goal of bleeding this country with thousands of cuts.

UPA Government's Suicidal Policy on Kashmir

Ever since the installation of the UPA government at the Centre, the leaders of the new regime have been advocating the need for promoting people to people contacts and friendly relations with

Pakistan. Egged on by the US and its allies, both the countries soon started a peace dialigue and confidence building measures. In accordance with this policy, train services and more cross-border bus services were resumed between the two countries. Two cross-border trade links with POK were also established on October 21, 2008 fulfilling a long pending demand of the separatists in the Kashmir valley. All restrictions to travel to Pakistan were relaxed and many pseudo-secularists in the country with doubtful integrity also took regular pilgrimage to Pakistan to further cement our friendly ties. The separatists in the Kashmir valley were allowed to undertake frequent trips to Pakistan to meet their contacts and patrons including many jihadi leaders. The jihadi terrorist groups in Pakistan took full advantage of this lowering of caution and opening up of the borders by India to send their operatives to establish closer liaison with home-grown terror outfits like the SIMI and select suitable targets for terror attacks. SIMI activists and new jihadi volunteers recruited by PAK-ISI from different parts of the country were regularly taken to terror camps in Pakistan for imparting training in the use of fire arms and explosives. Thus the SIMI and the newly created Indian Mujahideen were converted into dreaded terror outfits and in association with them a number of terror attacks mainly in the form of serial bomb blasts were carried out in different parts of the country by the Pakistani terrorist groups like Leshkar-e-Toiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad.

General Parvez Musharaf while addressing the UN General Assembly in 2005 had sought total demilitarization and self rule in J&K. This demand was originally raised by Hizbul Mujahideen chief Syed Jalahuddin to resolve the Kashmir issue. Taking a cue from Musharaf's demands, the People's Democratic Party (PDP) which was an alliance partner in the PDP-Congress ministry in J&K also soon started openly supporting the demand for self rule in the state. PDP leader and former chief minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed in a departure from his past stance strongly endorsed the demands for total demilitarization and self rule in the state. His daughter Mehabooba Mufti is known to have close links with the pro-Pakistani elements in the state and her influence may have been the motivating factor for his new stance. There was hardly any opposition to these demands from the Congress. In fact the prime minister appeared to have been

impressed by the demands raised by Mufti Mohammad Sayeed as he soon nominated Mufti Mohammad to lead an unofficial delegation to the UN in November, 2006 so as to enable him to address the UN General Assembly and explain his concept of self rule as an ultimate solution to the Kashmir dispute. Self-rule in effect means independence and many independent observers and intellectuals in the country were perplexed and shocked by this development and wondered as to how Mufti Mohammad Sayeed who had held very high and responsible positions in the government both at the state and central level could suddenly change his stance and become a proponent of self rule as a workable solution to the row over Kashmir. They were even more baffled by the prime minister's decision to send Mufti Mohammad to the UN to promote a cause raised and cherished by the Kashmiri militants and their patrons in Pakistan.

Meanwhile a systematic and massive campaign was launched in Kashmir valley by the separatist elements with the backing of the pro-American human rights groups and media to dub the Indian army personnel deployed in J&K as rapists, abductors and murderers of innocent people. The hate-campaign against the army was further intensified after the sudden discovery of some mass graves in places like Baramulla and Uri and NGO and human rights activists describing them as mass graves of disappeared Kashmiries who had become victims of army repression. A rights body called the Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons (APDP) which had allegedly conducted a two-year survey of people missing after being taken under custody by the security forces in J&K had compiled a report titled 'Facts Under Ground' giving details of missing people taken under custody, labeled as foreign militants and buried in nameless graves. The APDP which released the report in April, 2008 claimed that many of those buried in about 900 nameless graves were victims of enforced disappearance. Highlighting this claim by the APDP, Amnesty International and other international human rights organisations had painted a grim picture of the human rights situation in J&K and the separatists and rights activists in the Kashmir valley in turn had started a hysteric campaign demanding the total pull out of the army from the state. The armed forces and the J&K police had clarified that hundreds of foreign militants who were trying to infiltrate into the country were killed in

the past by Indian security forces and the alleged discovery of some nameless graves played up by the rights activists were actually the graves of such unidentified infiltrators from across the border. However the UPA government did nothing to defend or salvage the reputation and honour of the army thereby indirectly giving some legitimacy to the allegations raised by the separatists against the army personnel. Although the government of India rejected the demand for total pull out of the army from J&K, it did agree for a troop reduction and restraining the army from internal security duties. Taking full advantage of this immobilisation of the army, the separatists in the valley stepped up its anti-India campaign which reached its peak after the eruption of riots over the Amarnath land controversy. By not taking stringent measures to curb the open anti-India campaign launched by the separatist elements, the authorities allowed the situation to deteriorate to such an extent that holding huge anti-India rallies, burning of Indian national flags and hoisting Pakistani flags had become the order of the day in the Kashmir valley. It is only when the state government's authority across the Kashmir valley had diminished to a dangerous level that the Centre finally ordered a crackdown on the separatists and brought the situation under control. After watching the latest flare-up in the Kashmir valley, the fifth columnists of the secular variety in the country concluded that India can no longer hold on to Jammu & Kashmir. One secularist who prefers to describe herself as a citizen of the world mobile republic attended a massive anti-India rally organised by the separatists in Kashmir valley on August 18, 2008 and later made her majestic declaration that India needs azadi from Kashmir as much as Kashmir needs azadi from India. But the assembly elections held in the state in December,2008 had clearly shown that what the people of Jammu & Kashmir need is not azadi but good governance. Despite the poll-boycott call given by various separatist outfits in the state, more than 61% of the people exercised their franchise.

The net result of the peace dialogue, confidence building measures and softening of the border with Pakistan is that it has given a tremendous boost to terrorism in India and the Islamic terror attacks which were earlier mostly confined to Kashmir have now spread to all parts of the country. With the resumption of more and more cross-border bus and train services, it has become easy for the terror recruits

from India to avail intensive terror training at various terror camps in Pakistan and for terrorists from across the border to come, recce and select terror targets in India. The soft border also enabled the ISI and its terror allies to create a new terror monster in India in the form of Indian Mujahideen. Fake Indian currency printed in government facilities in Pakistan has also started pouring into the country in a big way threatening to destabilise our economy. The present situation in the country is such that there is absolutely no guaranty to the life and property of the people anywhere in India and the hapless and panic-stricken citizens, whether young or old, rich or poor, Hindu or Muslim are not very sure that they will live for another day.

India Becomes a Puppet of USA

Alan Hart, a veteran British journalist who had worked for ITN, the UK's leading commercial news broadcaster, and BBC's flagship current affairs programme Panorama, during his recent visit to Mumbai in November, 2008 had expressed his disapproval of India getting itself increasingly aligned with the USA. He further said that it was unfortunate that India is now being perceived as an American puppet in the eyes of the world. Alan Hart was absolutely right in his observation as that is what India has become, an American puppet, under the UPA regime. The following instances unambiguously make it clear that India has mortgaged its sovereignty and national pride to become a subservient and junior partner of the USA.

Russia (formerly the Soviet Union) had been the main supplier of arms and other defence equipments to India for the last 50 years. France and Israel were the other two major suppliers of arms to India. This equation is now changing with the UPA government signing a number of mega arms deals with the various defence firms in the US. As a prelude to this dramatic pro-US tilt, India had signed a 10-year framework agreement with the US paving the way for stepped up military ties, including joint weapons production and cooperation on missile defence. The agreement titled "New Framework for the US-India Defence Relationship (NFDR) was signed on June 27, 2005 by US Defence Secretary Ronald Rumsfeld and India's then Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee. Under this agreement, the US has offered

high-tech cooperation, expanded economic ties and energy cooperation. The NFDR also envisages stepping up of strategic dialogue with India to boost missile defence and other security initiatives, launching of a defence procurement and production group and cooperation on military research, development, testing and evaluation. It further proposes joint and combined exercises and exchanges between both sides, naval pilot training and increased cooperation in the areas of worldwide peacekeeping operations and expansion of interaction with other nations for promoting regional and global peace and stability. Joint military exercises with the US and also with some of its allies have now become a routine event which has caused some concern in countries like Russia and China and also in the Arab world.

Under the UPA regime there has been a significant upgrade in intelligence cooperation between the US and India. Signalling this upgrade, US Director of National Intelligence (DNI) J. Michael McConnell, who heads the entire US intelligence set up, had made his first visit to India in May 2008. During this visit he is reported to have met National Security Advisor M.K.Narayanan and the heads of central intelligence agencies like the IB and R&AW. His quiet trip to India was reportedly aimed to establish contact at the highest level and discuss ways to strengthen intelligence cooperation between the two countries. With 16 spy agencies under him, he is the highest ranking intelligence official in the US. McConnel again visited India on December 23, 2008 to monitor the findings of the FBI team which was allowed to conduct a parallel probe into the Mumbai terror attacks and to have consultations with Union Home Minister, National Security Advisor and chiefs of central intelligence agencies about the progress of the investigation into the Mumbai terror Attacks.

The Indo-US CEOs Forum was constituted during Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to USA in July 2005 as part of the Indo-US economic dialogue. In reply to a question raised in Rajya Sabha by Brinda Karat of the CPM in January 2008, External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee had stated that the Indo-US CEOs Forum whose activities are coordinated through institutions of the CII and the US India Business Council, is a forum in which the private sector representatives of the two countries interact and also discuss their inputs to the annual India-US Economic Dialogue for strengthening bilateral

trade and economic linkages between the two countries. He strongly denied about any interference by the Forum in policy matters like judicial reforms, education, energy security,etc. However the facts accessed through RTI queries by some activists had revealed that the finance ministry and the Planning Commission have always worked overtime to implement the Forum's recommendations. Brinda Karat had later described the Indo-US CEO's Forum as a Super Planning Commission.

Before the final agreement for the two nuclear reactors at Koodankulam, the Russians were under tremendous pressure from the US to abort the deal. However the Russians did not budge pointing out that the deal was covered under the 1988 intergovernmental agreement (IGA) signed before the revised Nuclear Suppliers Group guidelines were put in place. After finalising the text of a fresh IGA for four additional reactors contingent on fixing an appropriate safeguards arrangement with the IAEA and securing amendments to NSG guidelines, the UPA government quite strangely refrained from signing the deal even though the Russians were ready to supply the reactors. This was disclosed by A.N.Prasad, Former Director, BARC and Member, Atomic Energy Commission in his letter to the editor of English news daily 'The Hindu', dated 3d, December 2007. Reportedly the UPA government acted against the national interest and refrained from signing the deal only because of the displeasure shown by the US over the said deal. India signed the deal for additional reactors from Russia only after signing the nuclear deal with the US.

Succumbing to pressure from the US, India had voted against Iran over the nuclear issue at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) meeting held in Vienna on 24 September,2005. India was among the 22 countries which voted for a resolution calling for referring Iran's nuclear programme to UN Security Council. While most non-aligned countries like South Africa, Brazil, Mexico and Sri Lanka abstained from voting, India preferred to align with the US and the European Union despite our traditional friendly ties with Iran. Considering the fact that Iran had stood by us on the Kashmir issue and that it had always been very cooperative in meeting our energy requirements, India should have abstained from voting.

On August 4, 2008 Indian authorities had given permission to a North Korean plane to overfly Indian airspace on 7th. August. While seeking permission, the Korean authorities had specifically mentioned that the Korean civilian plane, an IL-62,would depart Mandalay, where it had made a stop over, around 1 pm on 7th. August and overfly Indian airspace on its way to Tehran. The permission was valid until 1 pm on August 9 and was granted under routine civil aviations rules. However on August 7th. morning the Indian authorities all of a sudden withdrew the permission granted to the North Korean plane to overfly the Indian airspace reportedly under hurriedly conveyed instructions from the Prime Minister's Office. The DGCA authorities had immediately got in touch with Kolkata Air Traffic Control and an urgent cancellation message was relayed to Yangon ATC. There was no official explanation for the cancellation of permission granted to the North Korean flight. But it is widely believed that it was done at the behest of the US which still perceived both North Korea and Iran as countries falling under the "axis of evil" list. The fact that India could not resist such pressures and interference in our dealings with other countries shows how subservient India has become to the US.

Downturn in Sino-Indian Relations

The Sino-Indian relations which remained in a deep freeze after the border conflict in 1962 had been showing steady signs of improvement since 1980s following some positive steps taken in this regard by leaders like former prime minister and Congress leader late Rajiv Gandhi and another former prime minister and BJP leader Atal Bihari Vajpayee. However our relations with China have again taken a downturn lately because of the UPA government's indirect support to the cause of Tibetan refugees in India. This perceived change in the attitude of the UPA government towards the Tibetan refugees had emboldened the militant elements amongst them to become more assertive in their campaign against the alleged oppressive Chinese rule in Tibet. There is also a strong group of radical youngsters among them who have started criticising the 'middle path' followed by the Dalai Lama so far and arguing for shifting their goal to total independence for Tibet.

As part of the global protest against the Chinese atrocities in Tibet, the Tibetan refugees and their supporters all over the world, mainly in Western and European countries, had carried out violent demonstrations during the Olympic torch relay prior to the Olympic games in Beijing. In India also protest meetings and demonstrations were carried out in different parts of the country and there was also an attempt by the protesters to storm the Chinese embassy in New Delhi. More than 100 Tibetan exiles in India had also taken out a protest march from Dharmasala to Tibet on 10th. March 2008 coinciding with the 49th. anniversary of the Dalai Lama's escape from Tibet after a failed uprising. However they were promptly stopped by the Indian authorities on the same day. In the backdrop of the growing demand from a section of radical Tibetan exiles to shun the present middle path followed by them and seek total independence for Tibet, a key conclave of Tibetan exiles from all over the world was held at Dharmasala in India from November 17 to 22, 2008 to decide about the future course of action. The conclave attended by about 500 delegates decided to continue with the Dalai Lama's 'middle way' approach of talks with Beijing to gain genuine autonomy for Tibet. The conclave however did not rule out the possibility of changing their stand to seek total independence if their demand for genuine autonomy for Tibet was not granted.

China has not taken lightly the reluctance of the Indian authorities in curbing the activities of Tibetan refugees in India. It has now become more assertive in claiming the entire state of Arunachal Pradesh as its own territory and there had been a number of incursions into our territory by the Chinese army in the recent past. In the year 2007 alone there had been 142 such incursions into our territory. China is also claiming a small part of land called the 'finger area' located at the southern tip of Sikkim as its territory despite the fact that it has never been a disputed territory in the past. In the Ladak region also there had been frequent incursions into our territory.

Reportedly hundreds of Tibetan children are smuggled out of Tibet every year and are brought to Dharmasala, the headquarters of the Dalai Lama, for enrolling in schools in India run by the Tibetan government in exile, where they are given religious education which

is denied to them in Communist China. In July, 2008 the Tibet Autonomous Region Party Committee Discipline Department had issued a warning that the children who return from schools in India and parents who fail to bring their children back to Tibet could face unspecified disciplinary action. Some civil rights bodies and the Washington-based International Campaign for Tibet (ICT) had expressed grave concern over the warning issued in this regard by the Chinese authorities. The Chinese authorities have also been making allegations that the Dalai Lama's supporters in Nepal have been luring away young children of Tibetan origin from Nepal for indoctrinating them in the Tibetan schools in India.

China is very sensitive to any criticism against its alleged oppressive rule and human rights violations in Tibet and it does not hesitate to show its anger and displeasure to any country which shows any kind of support and sympathy to any Tibetan leader opposed to the Chinese rule in Tibet. For instance, French President Nicolas Sarkozi had met the Dalai Lama in Poland on 6th. December, 2008 while attending a meeting organised by the Polish government to celebrate the 25th. anniversary of the awarding of Nobel Peace Prize to former Polish President Lech Walesa. China had earlier repeatedly warned President Sarkozi against meeting the Dalai Lama whom it described as a globe-trotting separatist who wanted to divide their country. China had also scrapped its annual summit meet with the European Union which was to take place on December 1, 2008 in protest against Sarkozi's scheduled meeting with the Dalai Lama. The day after the meeting between Sarkozi and the Dalai Lama, China had slammed France for its gross interference in China's internal affairs. A strong protest was also lodged by the Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister with the French Ambassador to China conveying the indignation of the Chinese people over Sarkozi's action. Viewed from this perspective, the present toughening of stand by China on the border dispute with India is a natural turn of event as it coincides with the increased militancy on the part of Tibetan refugees in India.

In response to the concern expressed by the Chinese authorities over the activities of the Tibetan refugees in India, the Indian authorities in the past had assured China that India will not allow the Tibetan

refugees to indulge in any anti-China activities from the Indian soil. This assurance has been grossly violated by the UPA government by allowing the Tibetan refugees in India to conduct meetings, demonstrations and campaigns against China, especially on the eve of the Olympic games in Beijing. India could have prevented it by simply issuing a stern warning to the Tibetan exiles in India. The refugees should realise their status as refugees and refrain from activities which could harm the interests of the host country. As suspected by China, the violent protest programmes organised by the Tibetan exiles and their supporters all over the world, mainly in western and European countries, over the human rights violations in Tibet was a western ploy to bring the Tibetan struggle for independence into international focus so as to embarrass and discredit China on the eve of the Beijing Olympics. It was not in India's interest to be a party to such a plot. But the UPA government preferred to be a court jester of the US.

Unfriendly and Unreliable US

Ever since Pakistan started encouraging and engineering terrorist activities in India, we have been providing all details of such activities of Pakistan with all necessary evidence to the US authorities with the demand to declare Pakistan as a state sponsor of terrorism. But the US always rejected all such evidences and took the stand that there was no conclusive proof to act against Pakistan. (Ref. "The Kaoboys of R&AW" by B. Raman)

Following Pakistan's continued involvement in sponsoring terrorist activities in India, the IB and RAW had prepared a detailed dossier giving details of all the evidences collected by them against the ISI. A 3-member team of Home Ministry and IB was sent to Washington to hand over copies of the dossier to the US authorities and request them to declare Pakistan as a state sponsor of terrorism. But the US State Department summarily rejected the dossier. The CIA took the stand that there was no terrorism in J & K and there was no conclusive proof to nail the ISI for its involvement in sponsoring terrorism in India. The US had always extended a protective shield to Pakistan to exonerate it from all allegations of sponsoring terrorism in India. (Ref. Kaoboys of R&AW)

It is an open secret that the Sikh militancy that took root among the Sikh diaspora in countries like the US, Canada and England had enjoyed the patronage of some Western agencies. Talwinder Singh Parmar, a sacked saw mill worker of Vancouver in Canada and a leader of Babbar Khalsa, had issued many provocative statements threatening to eliminate Indira Gandhi. He was also wanted in India for trial in a case relating to the massacre of some Nirankaris in Punjab. Though India had sought the help of Western Intelligence agencies for his arrest and repatriation to India, they never obliged. . (Ref. Kaoboys of R&AW)

At India's behest, the Interpol had issued a look out notice to all member countries to arrest Talwinder Singh Parmar and inform Indian police if he was found in their territory. In 1983, the West German Police arrested him and informed the CBI about it through INTERPOL. They had also sought the details of the cases in which he was wanted and evidence against him. The CBI informed them that a CBI team with all such details will be flying to Bonn immediately and requested them to keep him under detention till their arrival. However, under pressure from some local Sikh community leaders the West German authorities sent him back to Canada and told the CBI that they couldn't get extension of his detention. Two years later Parmar had played an active role in the conspiracy for blowing up an Air India plane "Kanishka" off the Irish Coast, which resulted in the death of over 300 passengers, many of them Canadian citizens. If the West German, US and Canadian authorities had cooperated with India in repatriating Parmar, probably this tragedy could have been averted. (Ref. Kaoboys of R&AW)

In July 1994, the Indian authorities on the basis of precise information arrested one of the perpetrators of the 1993 Mumbai serial blasts who had taken shelter in Karachi after the explosions. His interrogation revealed all details regarding the recruitment, training and arming of the perpetrators by the ISI, the role of the ISI in the selection of economic targets to be attacked in India and the role played by Dawood Ibrahim in the entire conspiracy. It also brought out how the ISI had shifted the perpetrators to Bangkok and kept them in a hotel for some time in order to prevent detection of their presence in Karachi by the US authorities. The RAW also learnt from its sources

that under pressure from Dubai authorities to quit Dubai, Dawood Ibrahim had shifted his office and residence to Karachi and was living there as a Pakistani citizen. Though the Government of India brought all these details to the notice of US authorities, they were still reluctant to hold Pakistan responsible for such acts of terrorism in India. (Ref. Kaoboys of R&AW)

The US never cooperated with India in investigation into terrorist incidents in which Pakistan was involved. It showed no interest in facilitating investigation into the hijacking of an Indian Airlines flight IC-814 to Kandahar in December 1999 in which several ISI-linked persons were involved. Though there was credible evidence about the presence of all the five hijackers namely Mohammad Ibrahim Athar Alvi, Zahoor Ibrahim Mistri, Shahid Akthar Sayed, Shakir Mohammad and Azhar Yusuf in Pakistan, the US did not want to put pressure on Pakistan to hand them over to India. The US also did not cooperate in forcing Pakistan to hand over the three men, namely Mohammad Masood Azhar Alvi (Jaish-e-Mohammad chief), Syed Omar Sheikh and Mushtaq Ahmad Zaragar (Al-Umar chief) released in return for the hijacked passengers on board the flight IC-814. (Ref. Kaoboys of R&AW)

In 1992 the US State Department had alleged that there was large scale illicit opium cultivation along the Sino-Indian border in certain areas and wanted the D.G. Security to take aerial photographs of the region with an aircraft given by the US some years ago. India had agreed to this proposal. But they wanted one of their intelligence officers also to travel in the aircraft during the aerial photography missions. When India refused, the State Department officials threatened to impose economic sanctions against India for not cooperating with the US in the fight against narcotics. India stood firm and the issue was not raked up again. But the incident exposes the blackmailing tactics used by the US authorities to force India to accept its terms. (Ref. "The Kaoboys of R&AW" by B. Raman)

India purchased an amphibious transport warship USS Trenton from the US for $50.63 million in 2006. This 37-year old ship was rechristened as INS Jalashwa by the Indian Navy. A report of the CAG

tabled in the Parliament in March, 2008 had criticised certain clauses in the purchase deal which put restrictions on any offensive deployment of the ship and permitted the US to conduct an inspection and inventory of all articles transferred under the end-use monitoring clause. What purpose will be served by acquiring a war-ship which can not be used for any offensive deployment?

India had acquired a ‘Charlie-I’ class nuclear submarine on lease from the Soviet Union in 1988 to give our navy first-hand experience in nuclear submarine operations and maintenance work. It was rechristened as INS Chakra on joining Indian navy. However, not only the idea of acquiring a second nuclear submarine was given up, but even the first one was abruptly returned to the Soviet Union in 1991, reportedly because of strong objection from the US against any extension of its lease. As a result, the expertise gained from operating INS Chakra was steadily lost as India did not operate any other nuclear submarine all these years.

Indian had sought the help of US authorities in getting underworld mafia leader Dawood Ibrahim extradited to India from Pakistan. But the US authorities never extended any cooperation in the matter.

(Ref. “My country, My life” by L.K.Advani)

India had mastered the necessary technology to test a nuclear device in 1966 itself and could have become a nuclear power even before the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty was framed, as confirmed by the old CIA documents released by the US authorities. The US had always tried to stifle our nuclear programme and India could not get its rightful place in the nuclear club only because of the pressure tactics of the USA.

The US is having such a powerful hold on Pakistan that it could have easily restrained Pakistan from indulging in terrorist activities in India, if it wanted.

The US did not support India’s candidate Shashi Tharoor in the contest for the post of UN Secretary General.

The US never supported India’s bid for securing a permanent membership in UN Security Council

Inaction on Illegal Immigrants from Bangladesh

The root cause of all the problems and violence in Assam has been the steady influx of illegal immigrants into the state from Bangladesh. The violent agitation in the state against the influx of foreigners which started in 1979 ended with the signing of Assam Accord in 1985. Unfortunately the Assam Accord did not yield any results because of the treacherous enactment of the IMDT Act by the congress-I government at the Centre which gave legal protection to the infiltrators. The congress-I leadership justified its action as a necessary step to protect the interests of the minorities.

On April 10, 1992 Assam’s then chief minister, Hiteshwar Saikia, had stated in the State Assembly that there were about two to three million illegal Bangladeshi migrants in Assam. Many Muslim leaders of the congress-I in the state had reacted angrily to Saikia’s statement and one of them had even given an indirect threat to destabilise the state government. An unnerved Saikia had to swallow his pride and declare that there was not a single illegal Bangladeshi migrant in Assam. In a repeat performance, on 15th.July 2004, Union Minister of State for Home Sreeprakash Jaiswal had stated in Rajya Sabha that there were 1,20,53,953 Bangladeshi migrants illegally staying in India, with five million of them in Assam alone. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh during his visit to Guwahati the next day was confronted by a highly worried Congress Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi and other party leaders in the state who informed him about the heavy price the party will have to pay in the 2006 Assembly elections in the light of the statement made by Sreeprakash Jaiswal on Bangladeshi immigrants. Under the compulsions of the vote-bank politics, the prime minister soon had to make a public statement expressing his doubts about the veracity of the statement made by Jaiswal. A week later Jaiswal himself told the Parliament that the figures quoted by him on the issue of illegal migrants from Bangladesh were not authentic. Though the MoS had to change his own statement on Bangladeshi immigrants issue, the statistics provided by him fully tallied with the figures given by former Assam Governor Ajai Singh

and his predecessor S.K.Sinha and former Union Home Minister late Indrajit Gupta.

In July, 2005, the Supreme Court of India struck down the IMDT Act describing it as “unconstitutional” and the biggest hurdle in deportation of illegal Bangladeshi migrants from India. The Court also warned that large-scale infiltration from Bangladesh constituted an “external aggression” against the country and directed the Centre to take immediate steps to deport all Bangladeshi migrants from India. However despite such a strong verdict from the Supreme Court, the UPA government is not prepared to take any action to detect and deport the Bangladeshi migrants from India or to check the continued inflow of Bangladeshis into India. The growing population of Bangladeshi migrants in Assam has already created a tense situation in some parts of Assam. There had been a number of violent clashes between Bangladeshi Muslims and local villagers or police in districts like Goalpara, Udalgiri, Darang and Baska in Assam during the year 2008. In the communal violence that erupted between the Bangladeshi Muslims and local Bodo villagers in Udagiri and neighboring districts in Assam in October 2008, more than 50 people were killed and about one lakh people were displaced.

A number of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants linked with Pak-ISI or Harkat-ul-Jihad-al-Islami (HUJI) have been arrested by the police from different parts of India in the recent past for indulging in anti-national activities. A large number of Bangladeshi migrants engaged in circulating fake Indian currency were also arrested by various security agencies in the past from different parts of the country. But still the UPA government is reluctant to launch a crackdown on the illegal migrants from Bangladesh. The Supreme Court of India while hearing a PIL on 15 January, 2009 about deportation of illegal migrants from Assam had expressed its displeasure over the manner in which the government was evading taking any action on Supreme Court’s earlier order for identification of illegal migrants in Assam and has sought a status report from the government on the deportation of illegal Bangladeshi migrants. The bench headed by CJI K.G.Balakrishnan also observed that the illegal migrants in India appear to be getting more facilities than the Indian nationals.

Encouragement to Terrorism

Senior BJP leaders have always been accusing the UPA government of being soft on terrorism. But this accusation is a gross understatement. The UPA government is actually encouraging and helping all militant and terrorist outfits in the country by adopting various pro-militant policy initiatives.

UPA Misdeeds in Jammu & Kashmir

The Congress had forged an alliance with the People’s Democratic Party (PDP) in the 2002 assembly elections in Jammu & Kashmir despite being fully aware of PDP’s close pro-Pakistani leanings. PDP Leader Mufti Mohammad Sayeed who took over as the chief minister of the Congress-PDP coalition government in the state in November 2002, used his tenure as the chief minister to consolidate and strengthen his party’s mass base in the state. Mufti Mohammad’s daughter Mehbooba Mufti is closely linked with all Kashmiri terrorists and separatist elements in the state and also those based across the border. She is a staunch proponent of self-rule and autonomy for Jammu & Kashmir. She had also been strongly advocating for the use of duel currency across the LOC, free trade in goods and services, free mobility of capital and labour between the two Kashmirs and shared sovereignty of an integrated and united Jammu & Kashmir. Despite such open display of anti-national traits by Mehbooba Mufti and other PDP leaders, the Congress leadership did not find it necessary to end its association with the PDP. On the contrary, it allowed the PDP and other separatist leaders in the state and their mentors in Pakistan to freely travel across the border to meet, discuss and plan their future strategy for the ongoing freedom struggle in Jammu & Kashmir in the name of promoting confidence building measures through people to people contact. In another controversial decision, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh nominated Mufti Mohammad Sayeed to lead an unofficial delegation to the U.N. to make a presentation about his concept of self-rule as a solution to resolve the Kashmir dispute before an international gathering at the General Assembly in November 2006. What was the intention of the prime minister behind such a move? Was he trying to muster international support for Mufti’s self-rule and autonomy demand? Criticism from the so-called nationalist parties

against this foolish and dangerous move was rather mute and subdued. Tariq Hamid Karra, Finance Minister of J&K while addressing a meeting at Srinagar on Jan.2, 2008, had demanded a separate currency for Kashmir. The Congress leadership did not press for any action against Tariq Karra for his irresponsible and provocative utterances, obviously because it did not find anything wrong with the atrocious demand raised by a prominent member of the J&K ministry.

When the supporters of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) and the separatists in Kashmir valley in association with some human rights organisations started a misinformation campaign against the Indian army dubbing them as rapists, abductors and murderers of innocent people during the PDP-Congress alliance rule in the state and raised the demand for the total pull out of the army from the J&K, neither the state government nor the Centre came forward to defend the army and salvage its reputation. Though the Centre after due deliberations rejected the demand for the total pull out of the army from the J&K, it reportedly agreed to a partial troop reduction in the state and against deploying the army personnel for internal security duties. The campaign against the army by the separatists and other militant elements in Kashmir valley was the result of a conspiracy by certain western agencies and the jihadi leaders in the J&K and Pakistan for bringing the alleged human rights violations in J&K to the international focus and to get the army withdrawn from the J&K. By not standing by the army and succumbing to some of the demands of the separatists, the UPA government indirectly gave credence to the allegations raised by the militants against the army and strengthened the position of the separatists in the valley.

A proposal made by the PDP leaders for providing a safe passage to the militants and those political leaders who had crossed the LOC and were staying in Pakistan and POK, to come back and lead a normal life in J&K has been under the serious consideration of the UPA government since last one year. PDP president Mehbooba Mufti had personally taken up this issue with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in New Delhi. This was a clever move by the PDP and its patrons in Pakistan to resettle thousands of ISI-trained militants from POK in Kashmir valley in preparation for launching a final jihad

against the Union of India. The UPA government however could not give the green signal for this proposal because of stiff opposition from various security agencies.

Ever since the UPA came to power, there were deliberate efforts to create some operational difficulties for the army units posted in J&K. In 2004, Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed had asked the army to vacate all schools, hostels, hotels and forts occupied by its units in Jammu & Kashmir. Since then the PDP leaders were consistently raising this demand and putting pressure on the UPA government to get their demand conceded by the army authorities. In September 2007, Defence Minister A.K.Antony, as per a decision taken by the UPA government, gave an ultimatum to the army to vacate all schools, hostels and hotels in J&K by 30th. November 2007. The army authorities had to swallow the insult and comply with the said order before the expiry of the deadline.

In April 2008, the Union government announced a big hike in the rental rates of the land and orchards occupied by the army in J&K, as per the recommendations of an expert committee set up by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh after such demands were made by some PDP leaders. The hike ranges from 200% to 500% for different categories of land and will remain in force for five years. The army and other security forces had to be deployed in large numbers in Jammu & Kashmir to protect the life and property of the people in the backdrop of deterioration in the security situation in the state because of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism. It was the duty of the state and central authorities to extend all possible help and assistance to the army and other security forces in meeting their operational needs. However the UPA government's sympathy always lied with pro-separatist outfits like PDP and the army was subjected to a lot of humiliation and harassment.

A high-level panel on service sector set up by the Planning Commission in its report submitted in April, 2008 had sought the release of surplus land held by the armed forces in cantonments across the country so as to address the acute shortage of urban land for construction of hotels, multi-storeyed flats and office buildings. The armed forces in the country are reportedly already faced with a severe

land crunch which has adversely affected its operational plans and training programmes. It has also been reported that the military is managing with fewer firing and grenade ranges, training grounds and family quarters due to paucity of land. Rejecting the proposal made by the Planning Commission panel, the Ministry of Defence after consultations with the service chiefs, had pointed out that the military which holds about two lakh acres of land in its 62 cantonments in the country actually needed another two lakh acres of land for its 'key location plans' to accommodate units, fighting formations and other establishments.

Soft Approach to ULFA

The United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) is the most dominant and dreaded terrorist and insurgency outfit in Assam. The ULFA was founded in 1979 mainly to save Assam from the threat posed by the continued influx of illegal immigrants from Bangladesh and prevent the local Assamese from being reduced to a minority in the state. But over the years it changed its original ideology and objectives and allied with the ISI of Pakistan and the Bangladeshi terrorist group Harkat Ul Jihadi-e-Islami to wage a war against India. Instead of ousting the illegal Bangladeshis from Assam, it has started killing the Hindi-speaking people from other states working or settled in Assam, as part of its ethnic cleansing drive demanding a sovereign Assam. Besides the routine looting and extortion, the ULFA also engineered many terror strikes and bomb attacks across the state targeting innocent people, government properties and security forces. It also blew up many oil and gas pipelines in Assam in its effort to weaken the Indian economy as desired by its foreign masters. These operations are guided by ULFA leaders based in the shelter camps located mostly in Bangladesh.

The UPA government which had been showing a soft corner for all militant movements in the country was keen on finding a political solution to the Assam problem through a peace dialogue with the ULFA leaders. Necessary groundwork for bringing the two sides to the negotiating table was done by some social activists, most notable among them being writer Indira Goswami who had maintained friendly relations with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and also with ULFA

supremo Paresh Barua. The peace talks that started between the government representatives and the ULFA-nominated People's Consultative Group (PCG) in October, 2005 however broke down in 2006 after three rounds of talks mainly because of the continued terrorist activities by the ULFA militants and the retaliatory action by the army.

The Assam police had arrested two Pakistani nationals, one Bangladeshi national and seven Indian Muslims from Guwahati and elsewhere in Assam in 1999 for being either ISI operatives or activists of Pakistan-based Harkat-ul-Mujahideen engaged in anti-Indian activities. All of them were booked under sections 121, 122 and 153(A) of the IPC which included charges like waging war against India, criminal conspiracy and sedition. Reportedly, the two Pakistani nationals Mohammad Fasih Ulla Hussaini and Javed Wakhar were top activists of Harkat-ul-Mujahideen. The arrest of these militants and ISI operatives in 1999 had created quite a lot of sensation in the country. However all of them were acquitted on 12th. June, 2008 for failure of the prosecution to substantiate the charges. There was widespread criticism in the press against the acquittal of the ten militants alleging mishandling of the case by the Congress government in the state. Former Assam Chief Minister Prafulla Kumar Mahanta, under whose tenure the two Pakistanis were arrested, had also criticised the Congress government in the state for its indifference in getting the accused convected, despite having solid evidence against them.

The members of the People's Consultative Group (PCG) nominated by the ULFA leadership for conducting peace talks with the representatives of the UPA government are supposed to be independent social activists and intellectuals acceptable to the government side. However in February, 2008 a PCG member and a prominent human rights activist Lachit Bordolai was arrested under the NSA by the Assam police in connection with an ULFA plot to hijack a plane from Guwahati to Pakistan in 2007. Another PCG member Hiranya Saikia was arrested by the Assam police under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act on 22nd. June, 2008 for acting as a conduit for communicating massages and instructions from the ULFA top brass to the field activists. In fact all the members of the

People's Consultative Group (PCG) including noted writer Indira Goswami accepted as mediators by the government are very closely linked with the activities of the ULFA. How could the government accept them as impartial mediators?

Top leaders of ULFA who are mostly based in Bangladesh under the protection and patronage of Pakistan's ISI and HUJI of Bangladesh, have been projecting the insurgency problem in Assam as a political struggle between two sovereign countries ie Assam and India. Hence when the UPA government in 2004 wanted to initiate a peace dialogue with the ULFA to find a political solution to the militancy in Assam, initially the ULFA leaders insisted that the peace talks should be held in a third country as a neutral venue. Reportedly the UPA government was ready to accept this condition to hold the peace talks in a third country. B.K. Handique, the minister of state for defence, had said on 30th. May, 2004 that the government was willing to hold talks with the ULFA nominees even in a third country. However saner elements in the ministry and the bureaucracy probably realised the dangerous implications of conducting the talks in a third country and successfully sabotaged the said move. After the government's rejection of a third country as the neutral venue, the ULFA leadership finally agreed to hold the talks in India itself through a 10-member team of People's Consultative Group nominated by the outfit. Though the talks have broken off after three rounds of talks, there are some renewed efforts by some of the Congress leaders and some members of the People's Consultative Group to revive the peace talks.

The UPA government initiated the peace talks with the ULFA nominees even after the refusal by the terror outfit to drop its demand for a sovereign Assam. The government was also aware that the ULFA is now fully under the control of the Pakistan's ISI and as such it will not be in a position to take any decision on its own. Under the circumstances the peace talks drama was bound to be an exercise in futility. As many political analysts have alleged, the ULFA leaders volunteered for peace talks only whenever their cadres suffered some serious setbacks in the field and wanted to gain time to regroup and recoup themselves.

Encouragement to Maoism

Ever since the installation of the UPA government at the Centre, there has been a spurt in the Maoist movement in the country and today about 170 districts in 15 states in India are said to be Maoist-infested and the movement is reportedly making further inroads into more and more areas, especially in the tribal regions in the country. This spectacular growth of Maoist movement in the country can be attributed to the support it receives from the powerful lobby of militant NGO and human rights activists in the country who enjoy the patronage of some top leaders of the UPA government. The UPA government from the very beginning has been showing a very sympathetic attitude towards the naxalite menace treating it as a socio-economic problem and advocating a peaceful dialogue to resolve this problem.

Anti-Maoist Operation Sabotaged

The UPA government's sympathetic approach to naxal movement had resulted in the sabotage of a major anti-naxalite operation in Andhra Pradesh in 2005. About 30 top leaders of the CPI-(Maoist) including State Secretary Ramakrishna and representatives from Chattisgarh and Bihar who were holding a secret meeting deep inside the Nallamala jungles in Prakasam district in Andhra Pradesh were encircled by special anti-naxalite Grey Hound Commandos on February 3d. 2005. On receipt of SOS messages sent by Ramakrishna about the imminent commando crack down on them, the pro-naxal human rights activists in the state like Varavara Rao had immediately sought the help of some top Congress-I leaders in Delhi to call off the operation. Following the intervention by the Centre the operation against the Maoist leaders was called off much to the annoyance of the Grey Hound Commandos. If there was no such intervention from the Centre, the commandos could have gone ahead with their operation and captured or killed all those top Maoist leaders which would have broken the backbone of the Maoist movement in Andhra Pradesh. The UPA government should be held accountable for all the subsequent Maoist violence and killings in the state.

Indian Social Science Congress Honours Maoist Leader

The 31st Indian Social Science Congress was held at SNDT university,Churchgate,Mumbai from 27 to 31 December 2007. Union HRD Minister Arjun Singh had consented to be the chief guest. However since he could not come, the Science Congress was Inaugurated by Balachandra Mungekar, President of the Indian Academy of Social Sciences and Member of Planning Commission. Dr.Binayak Sen,a human rights leader and Vice President of PUCL who was recently arrested and jailed by Chattisgarh police for his close links with Maoist leaders,was honoured in absentia at the Science Congress by presenting a gold medal to him on behalf of Indian Academy of Social Sciences. He was also lauded for his fresh and innovative interpretation of Mahatma Ganthi‘s teachings. The UPA government obviously found nothing wrong in a dignitary like the Planning Commission Member honouring a jailed pro-Maoist leader at an official function. A citation awarded to Binayak Sen along with the gold medal states as follows.

"The Indian Academy of Social Sciences (ISSA), the National Science Academy of Science of Nature-Man-Society, is privileged to honour Dr. Binayak Sen, one of the most eminent scientists of modern Democratic Republic of India by bestowing upon him R.R. Keithan Gold Medal on the 29th Day of December in the year 2007 at the 33rd Annual Meeting of the General House at SNDT Women's University, Mumbai for his outstanding contribution to the advancement of science of Nature-Man-Society and his honest and his sincere application for the improvement of quality of life of the poor, the downtrodden and the oppressed people of Chhatisgarh, one of the richest but at the same time one of the most poverty-stricken states of India. His creative innovations in the field of social engineering are path breaking and have all the necessary potentialities for creating India as a true democratic republic rooted in the principle of equality, freedom and fraternity. What he has done by exposing himself to a great deal of sufferings and personal risks shall continue to inspire scientists as well as general public for a very long time. His name shall shine in the annals of history of science of Nature-Man-Society for ever."

Pro-naxal Elements Dominate Expert Committee Appointed to Study Naxal Movement

The UPA government has allowed the induction of several NGO action group nominees into many important government committees and institutions including the Planning Commission as part of an action group conspiracy to influence the decision making process of such bodies. The Planning Commission had recently set up an expert committee to study the growing menace of naxalite problem in the country and suggest remedial measures to tackle the problem. Majority of the members in this committee were sympathisers of the naxalite movement. Predictably the committee came out with a report describing the naxalite problem as a socio-economic problem which needs to be tackled with sympathy and understanding. The report ascribed the growth of naxalite movement to people's discontent and failure of the system and asked the government to hold peace talks with the naxal leaders. On the other hand the committee was highly critical of the 'Salva Judum', a people's resistance movement launched by the tribals in Chattisgarh to resist the violence, extortion threats and other pressure tactics of the Maiost cadres and recommended immediate disbanding of the 'Salva Judum'.

Antipathy to Anti-terror Laws

The human rights and NGO action group activists who support all anti-national movements in India have always been opposed to all stringent laws enacted to contain terrorist acts in the country. It was under their pressure that the TADA was abolished in 1996. Following the September 11 terrorist attacks in the US and the growing incidents of terror attacks in India, especially in J&K, the NDA government enacted the Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA), a new law to fight terror, in March,2002.

However the UPA government which replaced the NDA government after the Lok Sabha elections in 2004 was only too pleased to oblige the NGO and human rights lobby by abolishing the POTA, giving much relief to all militant elements in the country. Despite the steady deterioration in the security scenario in the country and recurring incidents of serial bomb blasts in different cities in India, the UPA

government stubbornly resisted the growing demand from vast sections of the people for enactment of an effective anti-terror law on the lame excuse that it will be misused by the police to harass innocent people. For that matter any punitive law can be misused by the police. Does it mean that all such laws should be done away with? It is the duty of the government to ensure that such laws are not misused. The fact of the matter is that the UPA government did not want to take any steps which will displease the NGO and human rights activists and other pro-terrorist elements in the country. According to a report published in the English daily "The Indian Express" dated October 2, 2008, a stringent anti-terror law recommended by the Administrative Reforms Commission was rejected by the UPA government reportedly because Sonia Gandhi was opposed to any such law which has POTA-like provisions. She felt that there is no need for any new anti-terror law as the existing laws are sufficient to deal with terrorism.

After the terror attacks in Mumbai in November 2008, there was tremendous pressure from various security agencies and political leaders, including some prominent members within the UPA government, for enacting a new anti-terror law to effectively deal with the worsening security situation in the country. However a powerful group of pro-militant leaders within the UPA still resisted the move for any such new anti-terror law and it was finally decided by the UPA government to choose the easier option of strengthening the provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA). As per the additional clauses incorporated in UAPA, an accused could now be kept in police custody for 30 days, the time limit for framing chargesheet has been extended to 180 days, no foreigner could be granted bail in a terror-related crime and the government could attach, freeze or seize the financial assets of a person involved in a terrorist act. However, unlike the Prevention of Terrorism Act, there is no provision in the amended UAPA validating the admissibility of a confession made before a police officer.

Wastage of Taxpayers Money

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), a pet project of the powerful NGO lobby was introduced in 200 districts in the country in 2006. It was extended to another 130 districts in the

country in 2007. The first draft performance audit report of the CAG on the NREGS was released in January 2008. According to this report the Employment Guaranty Scheme was a colossal failure as the scheme meant to create 100 days of employment for one member of each of the below poverty-line families in the rural areas, actually generated on an average only 18 days of employment despite the fact that the full amount allocated for the scheme was spent. There were many irregularities in the implementation of this scheme and in some cases the muster rolls maintained for workers engaged under this scheme contained names of non-existent or dead persons. In many places the payment to workers was shown for work which was never undertaken. After the release of the CAG report about the failure of the scheme many economic experts and analysts had demanded the total abolition of this scheme. Instead, under pressure from the NGO lobby, the UPA government not only rejected the demand for its abolition but extended the scheme to all the districts in the country from April 2008. In the union budget for 2008-2009 initially an amount of Rs.16000 crore was allocated for the implementation of the NREGS. However, under pressure from the powerful NGO lobby, the Centre subsequently sanctioned an additional amount of Rs.10500 crore for this scheme taking the total allocation for the scheme to a whopping Rs.26500 crore for this fiscal year alone. Chief Justice of India, Justice K.G.Balakrishnan while addressing a Regional Conference on the NREGS at Bangalore on 22 November, 2008 had stated that though the NREGS is a progressive welfare measure, its implementation is seriously hindered by factors such as corruption, lack of transparency in payment of wages, falsification of wage records and nexus between contractors and officials. That is exactly the problem with this scheme. The NREGS is simply not a workable scheme under our present corrupt system and hence it is bound to be a failure and waste of money.

The loan-waiver scheme for the farmers announced by the Finance Minister is another such scheme which does not make any sense. This waiver originally amounting to about Rs. 60000 crore was announced as a populist measure to please the farming community and to create a vote-bank among them. But it was done without any proper study about the problems of the farmers or about the real reasons for the increasing incidents of suicide by the farmers. According to one survey report, in about 40% of the cases the loans are taken from

the money lenders. It is the poorest section of farmers who are forced to approach the money lenders for loans. This is because of the extra-cautious approach of the bank officials who are reluctant to grant loans to the poor farmers as they do not want to add on to the non-performing assets of the banks. If the prospects of loan recovery are not very certain, the banks will tactfully make the procedure so cumbersome that the poor and harassed farmers would voluntarily opt to go to the money lenders. While it is necessary to address the genuine grievances of the farmers, resorting to unethical and undesirable solutions like the loan-waiver scheme would set a bad precedent for the country. The very concept of loan-waiver is highly regressive and objectionable. It makes the honest farmers who have paid back their loans look like fools while the dishonest ones are rewarded. Despite strong criticism against this scheme from leading economists in the country, the UPA government raised the allocation for this scheme from Rs.60000 crore to Rs. 71680 crore. The loan-waiver scheme has not stopped farmers' suicide in the country, but it has caused considerable damage to the country's economy.

While the UPA government was very liberal in wasting country's financial resources on and illogical schemes like NREGS and loan-waiver package, it failed to allocate adequate funds to meet the genuine requirements of the defence forces despite the extremely grave security situation prevailing in the country. Senior military officers and defence analysts have since long been demanding a minimum budget allocation of 3% of the GDP for defence. The Parliamentary Committee on Defence had also recently recommended that there should be a permanent provision in the annual budget for allocation of at least 3% of the GDP for defence expenditure. And yet India's defence allocation for 2008-09 has fallen below 2% of the GDP for the first time since 1962. Another vital sector that became a victim of government neglect is the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE). The budget allocation for DAE this year is Rs.4797 crore, which is Rs.1333 crore less than the allocation made in the last year's budget. Wasting exchequer's money on unproductive and undesirable schemes like NREGS and loan-waiver for farmers and denying adequate funds for important sectors like atomic energy, defence and infrastructure development demonstrates the UPA government's style of good governance.

Support for Western Conspiracy to Defame India

The alleged discrimination against Dalits in India has now been internationalised with the UN Sub-commission on Human Rights held Geneva in August 2004 adopting a resolution to appoint two rapporteurs to investigate and find a solution to tackle the problem of caste-based discrimination in countries like India. The duo will work in collaboration with other UN agencies like ILO, UNESCO, the Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, etc. and undertake a three year study. In the past, India had always opposed all efforts by the western countries and the powerful international Christian lobby to equate the alleged caste-discrimination in India with racial prejudice. But for the first time in the history, the representatives of the UPA government did not oppose the introduction of such a resolution and meekly allowed the adoption of this resolution equating caste-discrimination in India with racial prejudice, which has been a pet propaganda theme of Christian missionaries.

Jamia Nagar Shoot-out

The NGO and human rights lobby as usual had tried to project the Jamia Nagar shoot-out in New Delhi as a fake encounter claiming that the two youths killed by the police were innocent students. The Batla House operation was a meticulously planned one, carried out on specific information. It happened during the day time in a congested Muslim locality in the presence of a large crowd of Muslim onlookers who raised religious slogans while watching the raid from a distance. A brave and distinguished police officer was killed in the shoot-out and another police officer was injured. However the irate Muslim residents of the locality, supported by the human rights lobby, firmly believed that it was a fake encounter. There was no effort from the government side to nib in the bud all such malicious rumours and allegations and to reassert the genuineness of a path-breaking war-on-terror operation. A substantial section of the press and electronic media also gave credence to the lies and malicious propaganda carried out by the human rights lobby describing the Jamia Nagar encounter as a cold-blooded murder of two innocent students and cast aspersions on the genuineness of the Batla House operation. As a result of this sinister campaign by human rights activists and a section of the media, even

the moderate Muslims in the country believed that the Jamia Nagar shoot-out was a fake encounter. Sensing the simmering anger among the Muslim residents of Jamia Nagar over the alleged fake encounter, senior Samajwadi Party leaders who had earlier praised the Delhi police for the success of the Jamia Nagar operation took a U-turn on the issue and rushed to Jamia Nagar to express their solidarity with the local residents on the issue and supported their demand for a judicial enquiry into the Batla House shoot-out. Top congres-I leaders like Kabil Sibal, Arjun Singh, Digvijay Singh and Salman Khursheed also visited Jamia Nagar to extend their sympathy and support for the demands and grievances of the local Muslim residents over the issue. These leaders also reportedly apprised both congress president Sonia Gandhi and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh about the anger and misgivings among the Muslims in Jamia Nagar over the Batla House encounter and strongly supported their demand for a judicial enquiry into the incident. These leaders became silent only when the concerned agencies shared clinching evidence with them about the involvement of the two killed militants in several terror plots. The government had all the evidences to prove the genuineness of the Jamia Nagar operation. But still it did not take any timely action to clear the misgivings among the Muslims in Jamia Nagar and other parts of the country about the Batla House shoot-out and allowed the human rights lobby to project it as a fake encounter case.

Appointment of Sachar Committee

Justice Rajinder Sachar is a human rights activist and a staunch supporter of all anti-national movements in the country like the Maoist movement, Islamic militancy, separatist movement in Kashmir and insurgency movements in the North-East. The press conferences conducted by him to condemn the arrest of Maoist leaders like Arun Fareira and Vernon Fernandez of Mumbai and pro-Maoist human rights leader Dr.Binayak Sen of Chattisgarh and the articles he had written showing his sympathy for the separatist movement in Kashmir and his air-dashing to Bangkok in 2000 to express his solidarity with top Naga insurgency leader Th. Muiva,(General Secretary of NSCN-IM, the most dominant Naga underground outfit) who was arrested by the Thailand Police for travelling on a fake passport,etc. give ample evidence for his support to various anti-national movements in the country. The

UPA government cannot be unaware of his anti-national credentials. It was a crime to appoint such a man as the head of a committee to study the social, economic and educational status of Muslims in India and recommend remedial measures. Predictably he distorted the facts and submitted a biased report which was aimed to create disaffection among the Muslims in India.

The Sachar Committee Report, as expected, had created a lot of resentment and anger among the Muslim community as it confirmed their long nurtured suspicion that the existing bias and discrimination against the Muslims within the Indian society and establishment was the major factor responsible for the socio-economic backwardness of the Muslim community in India. The conclusions drawn by the Sachar Committee are factually incorrect. The minority communities in India also include Christians, Sikhs, Jains and Parsis who are doing much better than Hindus in different spheres of life. If there is any section of people who have not benefited from the social and economic development in the country, it could only be the Adivasis and Dalits. The Muslims are comparatively much better off economically. In the field of education and employment if they are lagging behind other communities like Hindus, Christians and Sikhs, it is only because of their aversion for education. Based on the recommendations of the Sachar committee, the government has announced a lot of concessions and welfare measures for the Muslim community in the form of scholarships to Muslim students, new educational institutions in all Muslim localities, 15% quota for Muslims in bank loans and special development funds for all districts in the country with 25% or more Muslim population, etc. altogether worth thousands of crores.

One of the most atrocious recommendations of the Sachar Committee was for giving recognition to madrassa degrees on par with regular college degrees and also for making the madrassa degree holders eligible to appear for competitive examinations like the civil services, banks and defense service examinations. The government's acceptance of this demand has helped a madrassa product of Darul Ulum Deoband of UP to get selection in the IAS in the Civil Service examinations held in 2008. Allowing a madrassa product without any regular academic qualification to get selection into the IAS is the worst kind of Muslim appeasement shown by the UPA government. The UPA

government has now decided to recognise madrassa certificates as equivalent to Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) certificates. By giving recognition to madrassa certificates on par with regular college degrees and announcing liberal central aid to madrassas, the UPA government has given a big boost to madrassa education in the country. It is widely believed that the madrassa institutions are the breeding centres of Muslim fundamentalism. The overemphasis on the superiority of Islam in the madrassa curriculum tends to make the Muslim children intolerant towards other religions which could make them prone to get easily influenced by the lure of jihadi philosophy. As such the UPA government should have taken necessary steps to motivate the Muslim masses to send their children to regular schools instead of promoting madrassa education.

The National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has included a chapter in class VIII social science text book about the marginalisation of Muslims in India. The new chapter under the caption "Muslims and Marginalisation" extensively refers to the Sachar Committee Report and point out as to how the Muslims in India were kept away from availing any benefit from the social and economic development in the country. This allegation is totally baseless and the inclusion of such a chapter in a school text book which is taught in thousands of schools in India is a deliberate act aimed to subvert the minds of young Muslim children. The Centre's act of accepting the biased report of the Sachar committee and implementing its ill-conceived recommendations and including the alleged Muslim marginalisation as a subject to be taught in schools clearly indicates that there are some elements within the UPA government who are engaged in promoting Muslim militancy in India.

The Sachar Committee Report has done immense damage to India's reputation as a truly secular country. Since it is a government appointed committee, the findings of the committee would be treated by most countries as a true reflection of the status and condition of Muslims in India. It gave a wrong message to Muslims in India that they were being deliberately discriminated against. It gave an opportunity to Pakistan and other unfriendly countries to point an accusing finger at India for ill-treating an entire community due to communal bias. The November 2008 terror attacks in Mumbai were

extensively covered by the international media. Commenting on the incident, a section of the press in the Western and European countries had extensively quoted from the Sachar Committee report to justify the Jihadi terrorism in India.

Ottavio Quattrocchi Episode

In April 1998, the CBI in a court affidavit had nailed Ottavio Quattrocchi and late Rajiv Gandhi for being involved in Bofors scam. Quattrocchi's accounts in the BSIAG Bank in London were frozen in July 2003 by the British government on the request of CBI as the amount was linked to the Swish accounts of A.E.Services, a company owned by Quattrocchi which had received the Bofors kickbacks. All appeals by Quattrocchi to defreeze these accounts were turned down by the British courts following strong defence put up by the CBI. However there was a sudden change in the CBI's stance on the issue after the installation of the UPA government at the Centre. On May 31, 2005 the Delhi High Court gave a judgement quashing the proceedings against the Hinduja brothers and Swedish arms manufacturer A.B.Bofors in the Bofors kickbacks case on technical grounds that the photocopies of vital documents from the Swedish authorities submitted by the CBI were not certified. The verdict came four days after Additional Solicitor General B.Dutta conceeded that the CBI was unable to get either the authenticated copies or originals of the Swedish documents on the basis of which the agencies had proceeded against the accused. Strangely enough the CBI's Director of Prosecution (DOP) S.K.Sharma gave his legal opinion against contesting the judgement. This was one of the factors that led to the defreezing of Quattrocchi's accounts. Subsequently the law ministry wrote to Britain's Crown Prosecution Service recommending the release of Quattrocchi's frozen accounts as nothing adverse was found against him. The government also sent Additional Solicitor Genaral B.Dutta to London in December 2005 to depose before the British Crown Prosecution Service that the CBI did not have any clinching evidence to link the Bofors money to Quattrocchi's off-shore company A.E.Services and that the Government of India did not have any objection in defreezing Quattrocchi's accounts. S.K.Sharma (DOP,CBI) was also sent to London to ensure the early defreezing of Quattrocchi's accounts. On 11th. January 2006 the Queen's H.C

decided to defreeze Quattrocchi's accounts and $4.5 million (Rs.21 crore) in his accounts was immediately withdrawn even as the Supreme Court was directing the Centre to ensure that his accounts remained frozen.

Ottavio Quattrocchi wanted by the CBI in connection with the Bofors case was detained by the Argentinian authorities on February 6th. 2007 on the basis of a Red Corner notice issued by the Interpol. The CBI was informed by Interpol about the detention of Quattrocchi at Iguazu International Airport in Argentina on February 7th. itself. However on February 12th. the Additional Solicitor General while responding to a petition filed in the Supreme Court by lawyer Ajay Agarwal seeking recovery of Rs.21 crore withdrawn by Quattrocchi from a British bank made no mention of the detention of Quattrocchi by the Argentinian authorities. The CBI officially released the information about Quattrocchi's detention in Argentina only on February 23d. 2007. On March 2nd. the CBI sent a team of officials to Argentina to fight the extradition case for which the papers had to be filed by 7th. March. The CBI's request for extradition of Ottavio Quattrocchi was however was rejected by the El Dorado court, Argentina on June 8, 2007 on the ground that the plea was not backed by necessary judicial documents. The court also ordered the Indian government to compensate Quattrocchi for the legal expenses borne by him in fighting the extradition proceedings against him.

In fact the CBI had hurt its own case by not providing the relevant trial court order in the Bofors payoff case to the Argentine court leading to rejection of India's plea for Quattrocchi's extradition to India. According to the Argentine court's order placed before the Supreme Court of India by the CBI on January 15, 2008, the Government of India failed to submit a court resolution ordering the issuance of the arrest order dated May 25, 1997, which is the origin and reason for the commencement of the extradition proceedings. Instead, the government had furnished the February 24, 2007 trial court order issuing a fresh arrest warrant obtained after Quattrocchi was detained in Argentina. The order was bereft of any details and gave no clue to the Argentine court as to why the arrest warrant was issued. The El Dorado court made it clear that it was not acceding to India's request only on the ground of non-supply of the May 25, 1997 order.

Not providing a copy of the original arrest order of May,1997 to the El Dorado court was obviously a deliberate act on the part of the CBI to let Quattrocchi off the Hook. Earlier the Government of India had helped Quattrocchi in unfreezing his account in a London bank and releasing his money from his frozen account by rushing two senior government officials to London to expedite the process even as a petition challenging any move by the government to facilitate the unfreezing of Quattrocchi's account in the London bank was being heard by the Supreme Court. By the time the Supreme Court gave its verdict directing the UPA government to ensure that Quattrocchi's account in the London bank remained frozen, his account was already unfrozen and the money withdrawn. The chain of events clearly shows that the UPA government had helped Ottavio Quattrocchi, the Italian businessman accused in the Bofors case, to go scot-free at every stage and the CBI was not serious about getting Quattrocchi extradited to India. The UPA government is thus guilty of misleading the nation about the progress of Bofors scam investigation and wasting taxpayers' money for the numerous foreign jaunts undertaken by the CBI for conducting a sham investigation into the Bofors case.

Boost to LTTE Movement in Tamil Nadu

There was a time when the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Elam (LTTE) enjoyed the overwhelming support and goodwill of the people of Tamil Nadu. However after the ghastly assassination of Rajiv Gandhi by a suicide bomber of LTTE in 1991, there was a surging outrage among the people over the heinous crime and the support base of LTTE was almost wiped out from Tamil Nadu. Only some small groups of people like MDMK leader Vaiko and P.Nedumaran of Tamil National Movement (TNM) continueed to extend their support to the LTTE, that too in a subdued manner. M. Karunanidhi, the present chief minister of Tamil Nadu, who was a strong supporter of LTTE had also stopped showing any open sympathy for the LTTE movement after the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi. After lying low for a couple of years the pro-LTTE outfits like MDMK and TNM again became active and vociferous in their support for LTTE and some new pro-LTTE organisations also started springing up in the state with the support of some NGO action groups. However the then Chief Minister Jayalalitha dealt very firmly with such militant pro-LTTE elements and in July

2002 she imposed a ban on two pro-militant organisations, Tamil Nadu Liberation Army (TNLA) and TamilNadu Retrieval Troop (TNRT), under POTA. The Tamil National Movement (TNM) was also outlawed by the Tamil Nadu government in August 2002 and its leader P. Nedumaran was arrested under POTA. Earlier on July 11, 2002 MDMK leader Vaiko was also arrested under POTA for making public speeches in support of LTTE.

Sonia Gandhi, widow of slain leader Rajiv Gandhi, was initially very much opposed to DMK leader Karunanidhi as the Jain Commission report had made some adverse remarks against him in connection with Rajiv Gandhi's assassination. In 1997 she had demanded that the DMK which was linked to Rajiv Gandhi assassination case as per the Jain Commission report be sacked as a partner of the United Front Ministry at the Centre and pulled down the government when her demand was not met. However after the Lok Sabha elections in 2003 despite Karunanidhi's past record of being a staunch supporter of LTTE, quite strangely the Congress-I led by Sonia Gandhi decided to align with Karunanidhi's party to form the UPA government at the Centre. Very soon some NGO and human rights activists in Tamil Nadu started a campaign to get the death sentence given to Nalini, one of the four convicts sentenced to death for Rajiv's assassination, commuted to life term. Strangely their movement had the blessing of Sonia Gandhi. In 1999, ie one year after becoming the congress president, Sonia had a private meeting with President K.R.Narayanan and she reportedly told the President that neither she nor her son and daughter wanted any of the four convicts sentenced to death for Rajiv's assassination be hanged. She further pleaded that no child should be orphaned by an act of the state. The Indian Express daily dated November 20, 1999 commenting on these developments had observed that before Sonia's plea for mercy to Rajiv's killers, the congress leaders were the leading opponents to showing any mercy to them. Sonia's mercy plea silenced them all. What transpired at Sonia's private meeting with the President was revealed by Mohini Giri, former Chairperson of the National Women's Commission and acting on Sonia's plea, Nalini's death sentence was commuted to life imprisonment by the state governor in May,2000. (Front Line, November 5-18,2005) .

The campaign carried out for getting Nalini's death sentence commuted to life with Sonia extending a helping hand got wide publicity in the press and electronic media which resulted in the revival of some public support and sympathy for the LTTE in Tamil Nadu giving it a fresh lease of life. Slowly the erstwhile supporters of LTTE including DMK chief M. Karunanidhi also started airing their views in support of the LTTE. In 2006 Nalini had sent a representation to the state government seeking her early release from the jail as she had completed a 15-year jail term by then. But her plea was rejected by the government on September 14, 2006 stating that the state government can not do anything in the matter as her case was investigated by the CBI. She had moved the High Court against this order and the court battle in this regard is still in progress. Meanwhile some pro-LTTE leaders and human rights activists in Tamil Nadu have also started a campaign in support of Nalini's early release from the jail.

On March 19, 2008, Sonia Gandhi's daughter Priyanka Vadra had visited Vellore jail in Tamil Nadu to meet Nalini Sriharan who is undergoing life imprisonment in connection with Rajiv Gandhi assassination case. Priyanka had reportedly spent about an hour with Nalini. Priyanka's explanation for her controversial visit to Vellore jail to meet Nalini was that it was her way of coming to peace with loss. Some sections of the people believe that Sonia's personal efforts to get Nalini's death sentence commuted to life term was the height of her magnanimity and her daughter has surpassed her mother's largeheartedness by her Vellore visit. But what has really happened is that Priyanka's controversial visit to Vellore jail and the publicity it received created a new sympathy wave for Nalini and a new respectability to the LTTE, the outlawed organisation.

The LTTE has already regained its lost support base and influence in Tamil Nadu with the active support it receives from the state chief minister and his party and the indirect boost given by the so called magnanimous gestures shown by Sonia Gandhi and her daughter Priyanka Vadra towards Nalini. Chief Minister Karunanidhi had openly displayed his pro-LTTE leanings by penning a poem in memory of the slain LTTE political wing leader S.P.Tamilselvan who

was killed in an air strike by the Sri Lankan Air Force in the first week of November, 2007. The revival of support for LTTE is not confined to Tamil Nadu alone. It has started spreading to all Tamil pockets in the country. A section of students of Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi mostly hailing from Tamil Nadu had shown their support and sympathy for the LTTE and its slain leader Tamilselvan by conducting a poster campaign in the JNU campus on November 7, 2007. The posters conceptualised by one M Phil student Kalaiarasan condoled the death of Tamilselvan in strong terms and described him as a martyr. The posters also proclaimed that "Martyrs are not born, they are sown". Justifying the poster campaign, the student leaders speaking to the media people reportedly said that their brothers and sisters in Sri Lanka are fighting for their right of self determination and pointed out that the support for freedom struggles has always been relevant to the culture of the JNU and they are only carrying this tradition forward.

The LTTE in Sri Lanka had received some serious set-backs lately following the death of some of its prominent leaders and depleting strength of its cadres. The government forces in Sri Lanka have reportedly captured almost all strongholds of LTTE in the recent past and they are presently engaged in a fierce battle with the rebel forces in its bid for capturing the remaining bases of LTTE. The beleaguered LTTE leadership has been seeking the help of its supporters and well-wishers in Tamil Nadu including Chief Minister Karunanidhi to put pressure on the Centre to intervene to stop the war in Sri Lanka and force the Sri Lankan authorities to start a peace dialogue with the LTTE for an amicable settlement. Meanwhile the pro-LTTE parties, organisations and groups in Tamil Nadu have started a massive protest campaign in the state holding protest programmes, meetings and demonstrations against the killing of Tamil civilians in Sri Lanka and asking the union government to intervene to stop the genocide of innocent Tamils in Sri Lanka.

The pro-LTTE campaign in Tamil Nadu has taken a violent turn lately with the LTTE supporters unleashing a reign of terror on all those who oppose any Indian intervention in Sri Lanka. On October 14, 2008 there were two incidents targeting the office of the English news daily "The Hindu" in Coimbatore by pro-LTTE supporters belonging to the Periyar Dravidar Kazhakam (PDK) in protest against

the anti-LTTE stance of the newspaper. The miscreants burnt some copies of the newspaper. Their attempt to storm the office was however was averted by the police. On October 16, 2008 morning some pro-LTTE supporters belonging to PDK and Tamil Desiya Podhu Odaimai Katchi assaulted a distributer of "The Hindu" newspaper at Erode and snatched thousands of copies of `The Hindu' and `Business Line', doused them with petrol and set them on fire. MDMK leaders Vaiko and M.Kannappan were arrested by the Tamil Nadu police on 23d. October,2008 for threatening to start an armed struggle against the government for its failure to stop the war against the Tamils in Sri Lanka. On 24th. October,2008 a violent mob of supporters of pro-LTTE organisations like Federation of Tamil Advocates and Revolutionary Youth Front ransacked the office of Janata Party President Subramanian Swami at Lal Bahadur Shastri Road in Madurai in protest against his anti-LTTE stance. On the same day a statue of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi was found vandalised in the northern suburb of Chennai city by some unknown miscreants. In another development on the same day, Tamil movie director Seeman was also arrested by the police for making secessionist statements and justifying the assassination of former prime minister Rajive Gandhi in 1991 by the LTTE suicide bombers stating that the Tamils were betrayed by the Indian leader. Addressing a protest rally in Rameshwaram on October 19th. Seeman had also reportedly threatened to take part in an armed struggle against India if the Centre did not intervene to stop the killings of Tamil civilians by the Sri Lankan forces. The pro-LTTE campaign in Tamil Nadu is thus now dangerously drifting towards a Tamil separatist movement in the state. The leniency and goodwill shown, inadvertently or otherwise, by the UPA government and Sonia Gandhi towards M . Karunanidhi, a pro-LTTE leader, and Nalini,an accused in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, was solely responsible for the revival of the support base of LTTE in Tamil Nadu.

Quota Politics

The quota politics being pursued by the UPA government amounts to a direct attack on the fundamentals of the Constitution of India. Instead of striving for a casteless society, the present reservation policy of the government is only dividing the country on caste-lines.

The poor and disadvantaged sections in the country definitely need help. But the OBC quota law which states that the caste should be the basic criterion for the identification of the socially and educationally backward classes will only lead to perpetuation of the caste system in the country. There are other more realistic parameters like the income of the family, educational status of the members, type of accommodation (like pucca, kutcha or no house), ownership of land and occupation to identify the backward sections in the society. How can we take caste as an identifying factor for backwardness when we do not allow caste census. The recent caste struggles in Rajastan and Assam were caused by the flawed reservation policies of the government. The Gujjar stir in Rajastan seeking scheduled tribe status resulted in a caste conflict between the Gujjars and Meenas. Earlier in November, 2007 the agitation launched by the Adivasi Chhatra Sangh in Assam had led to clashes between the Adivasis and the local people and the army had to be called in to bring the situation under control. Like the Gujjars in Rajastan, the Adivasi Chhatra Sangh had also been demanding the ST status. Now the Marathas in Maharashtra are demanding 25% reservation for the Maratha community in the state. Speaking at a meeting organised by Bumbai wing of Maratha Samanvay Samiti on 20th.November 2008, Shiv Sangram chief Vinayak Mete has threatened to launch a violent campaign soon if their demand for reservation was not met. Meanwhile the Congress-NCP government in the state has decided to include Marathas in the OBC category fearing that the Marathas may not support them in the coming elections. However this decision has not gone down well with the OBC and Dalit leaders in the state who fear that their quota in the government jobs and educational institutions will shrink if the Marathas are included in the OBC list. The quota politics is aimed to incite caste conflicts and thereby to divide and weaken the Hindu society. It is part of a well-designed strategy by the anti-national lobby in the country engaged in working for the destruction of Hinduism and disintegration of India.

Appointment of Air Marshal Fali Major as Chief of Indian Air Force

The selection of Air Marshal Fali Major as the new Chief of Indian Air force was a controversial decision. He was the senior most

air marshal in service and that way was eligible to be promoted as the new chief. But basically he is a chopper pilot. Each of the 20 air chiefs who served the country as the chief of IAF since 1947 has been a fighter pilot. Though there is no government rule that mandates that only a fighter pilot could become the air chief, it has been the convention and the done thing. There is also the question as to how a man who can not ,as per rules, command the Western or South Western Command of IAF by virtue of his not being a fighter pilot, can be eligible to hold the post of Chief of Air Staff. According to press reports when it was decided by the government to appoint Air Marshal Fali H. Major as the new Chief of Air Staff, there was a lot of criticism within the ranks against the decision to appoint a non-fighter pilot as the new Air Chief. At least one senior Air Marshal-rank officer was quite vocal on this issue and reportedly had even conveyed his protest to the higher authorities in writing.

Eight months after taking over as the new Air Chief, Fali Major probably realised that it was difficult for a non-fighter pilot like him to do full justice to his role as the Air Chief and he had no inhibitions to admit it. In November 2007, the Defence Ministry officials were surprised to receive an unusual letter from the Air Headquarters proposing that only fighter pilots should be considered for appointment as Chief of Air Staff in future. An intriguing question arises as to why the UPA government flouted the conventions and appointed a helicopter pilot as the new Chief of Air Staff at the risk of creating internal rivalry and disunity within the ranks. Was there any malicious motive behind such a step?

UPA Government's Sympathy for Anti-development Lobby

The anti-development lobby which opposes all major development projects like power, steel and cement plants, mega dams and ports, uranium and coal mining projects in the country enjoys the patronage of top Congress leaders. When Medha Patkar, one of the top leaders of the anti-development lobby, went on an indefinite fast at Jantar Mantar in Delhi from March 29, 2006 in protest against the Centre's clearance for raising the height of the Sardar Sarovar dam from 110.64 metres to 121.92 metres and also demanding immediate rehabilitation of all project-affected people, the UPA government had

deputed three Union ministers namely Saifuddin Soz, Union Water Resources Minister, Ms. Meira Kumar, Social Justice and Empowerment Minister and Pritviraj Chavan, Minister of State (PMO) to meet Medha Patkar and express the Centre's support and sympathy with her. Minister Saifuddin Soz even joined the protest programme and sat with Medha Patkar for a few hours on April 4, 2006 to express his solidarity with the cause taken up by her. The three Union ministers later visited the project site to study the condition and problems of the displaced villagers and submitted a detailed report to the prime minister fully supporting the arguments and allegations raised by Medha Patkar.

Top officials and engineers connected with the Sarvar Sarovar project and the Gujarat government had pointed out that by raising the dam height, it will be possible to provide water to more than 2000 additional villages in Kutch and Saurashtra region and also to generate 1450 MW of power. Medha Patkar is notorious for her destructive campaigns for stalling all mega development projects in the country. A world bank loan sanctioned for the Sardar Sarovar project and another loan for the project sanctioned by the Japanese government were cancelled as a result of the intensive campaign that she carried out outside the country with the help of some foreign agencies. Many mega development projects in the country were either cancelled or delayed because of the destructive campaigns undertaken by Medha Patkar and her associates during the last two to three decades causing a loss of tens of thousands of crores of rupees to the nation. Showing sympathy to such activists in itself is an anti-national act. According to a report published in the English daily'The Free Press Journal', dated April 21, 2006, Saifuddin Soz's total support to Medha Patkar's campaign against Sardar Sarovar dam was prompted by a directive from 10 Janpath.

Blatant Misuse of CBI

Following a PIL filed by a UP resident Viswanath Chadurvedi in March,2007, the Supreme Court had ordered a CBI investigation into the disproportionate asset case against Samajwadi Party leader Mulayam Singh Yadav. Since Mulayam Singh Yadav was in the opposition camp then and his rival and BSP leader Mayavati was very close to the Congress, the Centre was only too pleased to order a CBI

enquiry against the SP leader. However after the support extended by the Samajwadi Party to rescue the UPA government in the July 22, 2008 no-confidence motion, the CBI taking a U-turn approached the Supreme Court seeking permission to withdraw the case against Mulayam Singh Yadav who was charged with amassing wealth disproportionate to his known sources of income. The agency in its written request to the SC said that it decided to withdraw the case after getting legal opinion from experts and "directions" from the Centre. The CBI obviously buckled under political pressure in the backdrop of the changed political equations at the Centre after Mulayam Singh Yadav extended his party's support to the UPA government following the withdrawal of support to the UPA by the left front. The Supreme Court on January 6, 2009 had slammed the CBI for its inconsistent stand in the disproportionate asset case against Mulayam Singh Yadav and asked the agency not to become an instrument in the hands of the Central Government.

In 2005 when the Bahujan Samaj Party was supporting the UPA government at the Centre, the CBI had given a clean chit to BSP leader Mayavati in the case related to Rs.175-crore Taj Heritage Corridor Scam which was filed in 2003 and even had sought the closure of the case. However the Supreme Court referred the case to the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) for a report on the evidence collected by the CBI against Mayavati. After examining the records, the CVC submitted its report to the Supreme Court on 18 August, 2005 informing the Court that there was enough evidence to prosecute Mayavati in the Taj Corridor case. Accordingly the Supreme Court ordered the prosecution proceedings against Mayavati, but the CBI took scant interest in proceeding with the case. However in June 2008 when Mayavati's relations with the Congress were considerably strained and she withdrew her party's support to the UPA government, the disproportionate asset case filed against her was again taken up by the CBI with renewed interest.

The most blatant and shameless misuse of the CBI by the UPA government was demonstrated by the deliberate bungling by the CBI in getting the Bofors Scam accused Ottavia Quattrocchi extradited to India from Argentina and in allowing him to withdraw the Bofors Scam money from his frozen account in a London bank. Quattrocchi's

accounts in the BSIAG Bank in London were frozen in July 2003 by the British government on the request of CBI as the amount was linked to the Bofors kickbacks. On May 31, 2005 the Delhi High Court gave a judgement quashing the proceedings against the Hinduja brothers and Swedish arms manufacturer A.B.Bofors in the Bofors kickbacks case on technical grounds that the CBI had failed to produce certified photocopies of vital documents from the Swedish authorities. The CBI's legal cell strangely enough decided not to contest this judgement. Subsequently the UPA government sent two top officials to London to expedite the process of unfreezing Quattrocchi's accounts. Similarly when Quattrocchi, the accused in the Bofors Scam, was detained by the Argentinian authorities in February, 2007 as per a Red Corner notice issued by the Interpol, the CBI failed to produce the necessary vital documents for his extradition to India and as a result India's request for his extradition was rejected by the Court.

Innumerable instances can be quoted to expose the blatant misuse of the CBI for meeting the political objectives of the UPA government. Some of the other important cases mishandled by the CBI under the suspected directives from the UPA government include CBI's frantic efforts to close the 1984 anti-Sikh riot case against senior Congress leader and former Union Minister Jagdish Titler, its handling of the disproportionate asset case against Union Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav and his wife Rabri Devi, handling of the cash-for-MLA scam against Congress leader and former Chattisgarh Chief Minister Ajit Jogi and its efforts to protect some VIPs involved in the multi-crore Telgi scam.

The Congress governments have always been notorious for using the CBI for political objectives and settling personal scores. By such misuse of the CBI in framing up criminal charges against political rivals or to create loopholes in the legal proceedings to allow some accused to go scot-free, the UPA government has destroyed the credibility of a prestigious government institution like the CBI. It is a crime not lesser than an anti-national act.

Antulay Episode

After the Mumbai terror attacks, the people of India had shown

exemplary unity in condemning the jihadi terror strikes and the nation's resolve to fight against the terror mongers from Pakistan. BJP, the main opposition party in the Parliament, had extended its full support and cooperation to the UPA government in taking appropriate measures in strengthening the security and intelligence network in the country and bringing the sponsors of Mumbai terror strikes based in Pakistan to justice. The entire Muslim community and the Urdu press for the first time showed rare unity in condemning the jihadi terror attacks in Mumbai and the Pak-ISI for sponsoring terrorist strikes in India. Outraged by the mindless terror attacks in Mumbai, Muslims had taken out protest morchas and demonstrations in different parts of the country against the terror sponsors based in Pakistan. They also wore black bands on Eid day in protest against the Mumbai carnage. Initially there were some comments and allegations in the cyberspace and Pakistani and Chinese media about the possible involvement of some Hindu terrorists in the Mumbai terror strikes. But soon it died out following the disclosures made by Mohammad Ajmal Kasab, one of the terrorists caught alive, and some of the affected victims and eyewitnesses. Then came the bomb shell from A.R.Antulay, Minister for Minority Affairs, that he suspected a conspiracy by the Hindu terrorists in the killing of ATS Chief Hemant Karkare and seeking an inquiry into the said possibility.

Antulay's mischievous conspiracy theory was aptly condemned by vast sections of the people and the media in the country as irrational and irresponsible. Senior leaders of BJP and some other political parties and also the media strongly demanded Antulay's ouster from the cabinet as his utterances had caused serious embarrassment to the UPA government and helped to strengthen the Pakistani argument that the Mumbai carnage was an insider job and that India was making wild and baseless allegations against Pakistan. However a defiant Antulay stood by his conspiracy theory and repeated the allegation that ATS chief Karkare accompanied by two other senior police officers rushed to Cama hospital in the same vehicle only to get killed because of some conspiracy. Following his controversial remarks, some MPs and leaders, mostly Muslims, from the Congress and other political parties also came forward in support of his stance. Some senior ministers in the union cabinet like Pranab Mukherjee, P.Chidambaram

and A.K.Antony were reportedly not happy with the gross indiscretion shown by a senior cabinet minister like Antulay. However Congress General Secretary Digvijay Singh came out openly in support of Antulay by stating that Antulay had done nothing wrong as he had only expressed a genuine doubt and sought a clarification. The controversy raised by Antulay created some confusion and divisions among the Indian Muslims and a section of Muslims and Urdu press found some merit in the allegations raised by him. Thus the rare unity shown by the Hindus and Muslims in condemning Pakistan-sponsored terrorism in India in the aftermath of the Mumbai terror strikes was shattered and the national resolve to combat terror unitedly was seriously dented by the irresponsible allegations made by Antulay. On December 23, 2008 Union Home Minister P.Chidambaram made a detailed statement in the Lok Sabha explaining the circumstances that led to the killing of Maharashtra ATS chief Hemant Karkare during the terror strikes in Mumbai and made it clear that there was no conspiracy whatsoever to eliminate the Maharashtra ATS chief. He also described the controversy raised over the issue as regrettable. A.R.Antulay also expressed his satisfaction over the clarification given by the Home Minister. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh described the entire episode as the result of a human error and said that in view of the clarification given by the home minister and the satisfaction expressed by Antulay, the matter shold be considered as a closed chapter. Thus despite repeated demands from substantial sections of people, political leaders, intellectuals and the media for the ouster of Antulay from the union cabinet for his irresponsible remarks on Mumbai terror attacks, nothing happened to him. After making an attempt to vitiate the communal atmosphere in the country and weakening the nation's resolve to stand united to fight against the menace of terrorism, he got away without even a scratch with his ministerial position intact.

The Antulay episode is not a simple matter and it can not be brushed aside just like that. The Congress party is run by a dictator-like leader. No party leader can make a controversial statement like the one made by A.R.Antulay and get away with it without the party supremo's approval. See what happened to Margaret Alva, a staunch loyalist for so many years. The fact that Digvijay Singh, the party

general secretary and a staunch loyalist, came in defence of Antulay clearly shows that the controversial allegations raised by Antulay had the support of the party leadership. The conspiracy theory raised by Antulay was found baseless. But there definitely was a conspiracy behind the Antulay episode. After the Mumbai terror attacks, the Hindus and Muslims in India had shown rare unity in condemning the jihadi terror and in their resolve to fight Pakistan-sponsored terrorism in the country. At the political level the main opposition party, BJP, had extended its full support to the UPA government in taking all necessary steps to tackle terrorism. Some anti-national elements within the government however did not want such united stand by the Hindus and Muslims and also by the two major political parties in India on the issue of terrorism. They want a divided India. Antulay was used by this lobby to achieve their goal and they did succeed to certain extent.

National Advisory Council

Immediately after the installation of the UPA government at the Centre, Congress President Sonia Gandhi had set up a high-powered National Advisory Council (NAC) with herself as the chairperson to monitor the functioning of the government and to give necessary guidelines and suggestions to the different ministries in proper implementation of the government policies and programmes. This committee did not have any constitutional validity. However since Sonia Gandhi was its chairperson, all recommendations of the said council were treated as mandatory by all the ministries and the NAC thus functioned like a super cabinet. In March,2006 Sonia Gandhi resigned from the Lok Sabha and also as chairperson of the NAC following the demand raised by the BJP and other opposition parties seeking her disqualification from the Lok Sabha as she held an office of profit as chairperson of the NAC. The NAC, which remained headless for a while, was ultimately wound up a few months later. The most disturbing aspect of the composition of the NAC was that while two of its members were very prominent activists of the NGO action groups, most of the other members were also supporters or sympathisers of networking NGOs which had always acted against the interests of the country.

The instances and events explained above clearly indicate that the spurt in naxalite violence, terrorist attacks and the caste and communal divide in the country are all caused by the flawed policies deliberately followed by the present government at the Centre. There were more than 20 major terror attacks in India during the last two years. But we did nothing to punish the main perpetrators of these attacks based in Pakistan or took necessary precautionary steps to prevent such attacks. Our leaders did not even think it necessary to call off our peace talks with Pakistan as these talks are being held under the American pressure. After every major terror attack, a plethora of senior leaders and officials from the US and other western block countries air-dash to India to express their sympathy and solidarity with India. These dignitories come here only to ensure that India doesnot take any retaliatory action against Pakistan. They ask the Indian authorities to have a closer understanding with Pakistan to protect and strengthen the democratic forces there as though the Pakistani agencies had no role in such attacks. They warn India against any military adventurism to check such terror attacks emanating from Pakistan as it will amount to playing straight into the hands of the terrorists who want a confrontation between the two countries. The pseudo-secular lobby in India also preaches the same thing and warns the government against any military option. They further hold the Hindu fanatics responsible for this situation and point out that these terror attacks are happening because of the demolition of the Babri masjid and the Gujarat riots. Meanwhile the Pakistani authorities continue to deny any role by any of its state agencies in the terror attacks in India and ask India to settle the Kashmir issue for a permanent solution to terror attacks in India. In short, our imperialist friends and the pseudo-secular lobby in India desire that we should further strengthen our bonds with Pakistan and submit ourselves passively to get continued battering by the jihadi terrorists based in Pakistan. That is what the Indian authorities have been doing so far. This drama shuld stop here. Thousands of innocent Indians have been killed in the past in terror attacks carried out by jihadi terrorists mainly based in Pakistan with the active support and involvement of the Pak-ISI. The perpetrators of these crimes should not be allowed to go unpunished. War is not the only option to deal with the jihadi terrorists and their mentors in Pakistan. There are many other ways to punish Pakistan for its role in suppoting terrorism in India and it is for the political leadership and security experts to choose the best option in this regard. If the government does not change its present policy of inaction and passive submission on the dictates of the western lobby, we should be prepared to face more and more terror strikes, even deadlier than the Mumbai attacks.

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